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NEWS BRIEFS

NAACP delegates express outrage over AIDS

ATLANTA — Marchers from the recent 89th Annual NAACP Convention left the Georgia World Congress Center and took their concerns about rising HIV infection rates to downtown Atlanta. AIDS and HIV remain a high priority at the convention as well as other health issues facing minorities.

In a radio interview last week on New York's WNYC/820 AM, Mfume said, "We're very much concerned about health as an issue that continues to impact the black and latino communities nationwide. This whole issue of AIDS and the alarming statistics that have come out of the Geneva conference indicating that new infections, 52 percent of all infections are among African-Americans and that black women represent almost 56 percent of new infections."

Greekfest marred by gate crashings, but makes money

ASBURY PARK (AP) — Many residents in Asbury Park were dreading the annual Greekfest, a gathering of black college fraternities and sororities, but this year's throng was relatively tame, minus a near stampede sparked by a newly imposed \$10 cover charge.

But about two hours after the event began, the crowd began to pull down a fence at First Avenue, and Police Director Dave Davis ordered all the gates opened to maintain order. The impetus for the gate storming was a \$10 fee. For 18 years, the informal event was free. However, by 5:30 p.m., more than 8,000 people paid to get into the festival, netting the city an amount that pleased Mayor DeMartino, the city's chief financial officer. "The city will not be hurt financially for this event," DeMartino said.

Anti-drug message hits 'America over the head'

ATLANTA (AP) — Updating "just say no" with images to "knock America upside the head," President Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced an anti-drug campaign aimed at bombarding the nation with \$1 billion in hard-hitting ads over the next five years.

"These ads were designed to knock America upside the head and get America's attention and empower all of you," Clinton told an audience of mostly children, clusters of them sporting Boy Scout and Girl Scout uniforms.

Coretta Scott King slams careerists in congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said recently that affirmative action must continue because blacks still endure "kick butts" and more subtle forms of racism in America.

"Affirmative action is a good-faith effort to promote sharing of opportunities in business," Mrs. King said.

She said, as well, to the audience of personal injury lawyers, that if the attack on affirmative action is successful, the courts will be the only remedy available.

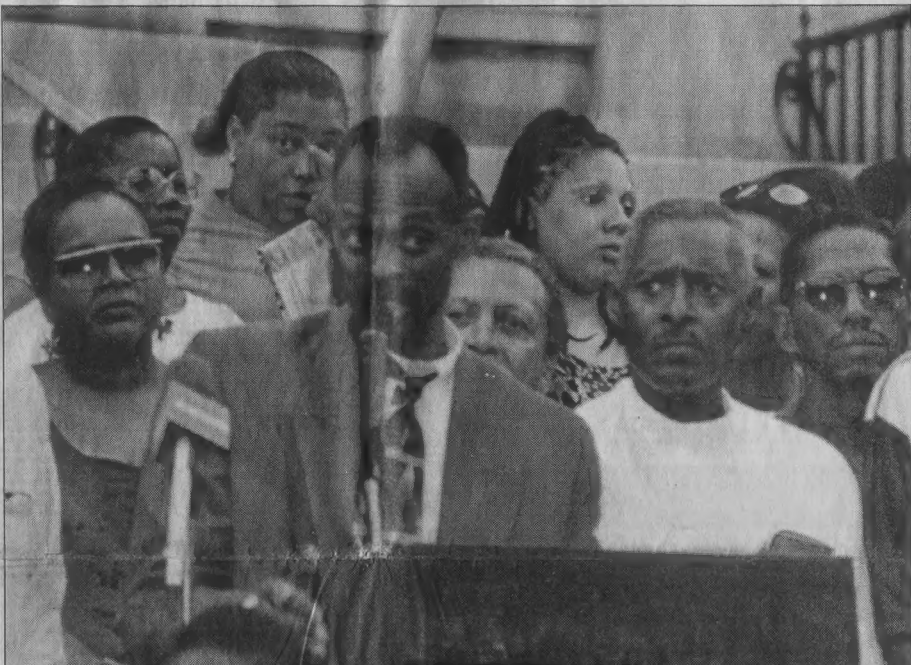
She also blasted "power-hungry careerists" in Congress who turn their backs on working people, the poor and the disadvantaged. "We need a congress that legislates more and investigates less," she added.

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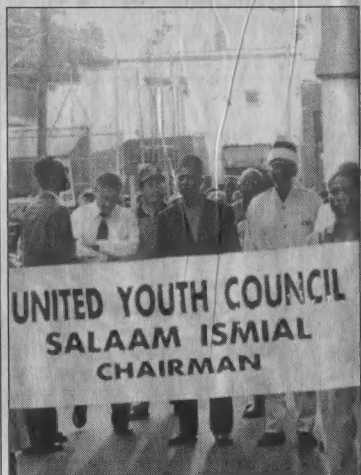
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Elizabeth protest



Salaam Ismail, chairman of the United Youth Council and community leader, speaks before the crowd gathered in front of Elizabeth's City Hall. Ismail and the efforts made to combat the racist slur circulated in Elizabeth have gotten a lot of support from New York Reverend Herbert Daughtry (shown at right). Photos by C.J. Johnson



Several youth and concerned citizens (photo left) carry a United Youth Council banner as they make their way down Anna St. to Elizabeth City Hall. In the photo on the right, a man standing in front of a house on Walnut Street holds a sign that cautions against racist behavior.

By Lucy Sanchez

Fliers headlined "How to kill N...," have fired up Elizabeth. Drum beats roared and "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE" signs were lifted. Community leader, Salaam Ismail, led nearly 100 residents on July 14, as they marched from Walnut St. to City Hall chanting "Everybody join the march!"

Marching to city hall alongside her younger sister, was 13-year-old Kristina Way. Her family received one of the hate fliers on July 4th. "I didn't know people still felt like that," said Way, "and I want whoever wrote that letter to know that it just brought us together."

As the crowd gathered in front of city hall, Ismail described the two-page

flier his niece received on Independence Day. It listed instructions on how to kill blacks and get away with it. It also denounced interracial associations. Although police only collected 14 fliers, according to Ismail, there were about 70 - 100 fliers distributed on Walnut St.

In an interview with *City News*, Ismail said he is requesting help from the FBI because he is not satisfied with the progress from local authorities. He wants whoever is responsible to know that Elizabeth residents are going to snipe back. "The people of Elizabeth are not going to tolerate this," said Ismail. "We're going to seek you out. We're going to hunt you down and we're going to lock you up."

Community leaders say they will not allow another Jasper, Texas incident to occur. "Yes! They woke up the sleeping giants and as you know, it's on," said Charlotte Brown, President of the United Youth in NJ. Her voice echoed into the crowd as she told everyone to unite and combat overt and institutionalized racism.

Another speaker, New York Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry, stated he was going his walking shoes on again because there has been a resurgence of racism in America. He said if Nelson Mandela can be free and apartheid can be abolished in South Africa, then racism can be destroyed in America.

He was one of many speakers who encouraged the community to put pres-

sure on their elected officials to get a more diverse representation in higher level positions, equal opportunities in employment and decent and affordable housing.

Representative Joe Parish, from St. Johns Episcopal Church also spoke against racism at City Hall. In an interview with *City News*, Parish said racism is a spiritual sickness. "You can't fight a spiritual sickness with physical violence," said Parish. "We need to pray for them. We have to love them even though they may hate us."

The protest ended in prayer by Christian and Muslim religious leaders. More events will be scheduled on July 23 and July 25. The locations are still being determined.

Advisers liable in Brawley court case

By Michael Hill
Associated Press Writer

POUGHKEEPSIE, New York (AP) — The jurors who found that a civil rights leader and two legal advisers to a black teen-ager defamed a white former prosecutor were urged Tuesday to award no damages.

The jury on last Monday said the trio defamed Steven Pagnones by claiming he took part in the purported 1987 abduction and rape of Tawana Brawley, who was then 15. The verdict followed an almost eight-month trial that revived racial tensions that engulfed the case a decade ago and subjected Pagnones to a fresh round of accusations.

At press time, Pagnones was seeking compensatory and punitive damages as part of his \$395 million lawsuit against civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton, C. Vernon Mason, and Alton Maddox.

In opening arguments for the penalty phase of the trial, lawyers for the three men claimed Pagnones was not subject to scorn and ridicule in his community because of the accusations and suffered no financial loss. "It would be a miscarriage of justice for three men ... to be punished for an effort to help people who cannot speak for themselves," Maddox said.

Pagnones' lawyer read from the record a doctor's report saying Pagnones suffered from anxiety and insomnia as a result of the Brawley case.

Although Pagnones was seeking \$395 million, the jury found he had been defamed in only 10 of the 22 statements he used over. But he said the verdict will help put the case to rest.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
CRANFORD—Union County College will conduct a seminar on how to "Make your resume work for you" from 7 to 9 p.m. 908-709-7600.
TBS—The Goodwill Games will be featured through August 2nd on TBS each night from 8:05 to 11:05 p.m. 213-852-6645.
ELIZABETH—The 7th annual July Fest will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at The Family Center at Pioneer Homes. Free food and drink, free family photos, and free giveaways. Come out and celebrate "Unity in the Community" 908-955-2545.

THURSDAY, JULY 23
PLAINFIELD—The Manor Park Chorus of Westfield Senior Housing, led by Elizabeth Shea, will sing starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. Transportation can be provided. 908-753-3506.
TRENTON—The NJ Commission on Higher Education will meet at 10 a.m. in rooms 219 and 220 of the Mary G. Roebing Building. 908-292-4310.

FRIDAY, JULY 24
WEST CALDWELL—Author, the lovable aardvark and friends are to appear live at the Quick Check New Jersey Festival of Ballooning. Kids of all ages welcome. For tickets, call 800-HOTAIR-8.

SATURDAY, JULY 25
PLAINFIELD—It's time to register children for Plainfield Pop Warner Vikings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old National Guard Armory. 908-755-0515.
NEW YORK CITY—Children workshop introduces them to the world of video technology through activities that help them understand the work of a video camera. For more info, call 212-633-8100.
JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Accent Reduction." A course helping students in their ability to speak clear English. 201-714-2127.

MONDAY, JULY 27
SCOTCH PLAINS—The Arc of Union County Golf Outing celebrates 10th year with a day of fun and sun on the links of Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club. 908-754-7826.

TUESDAY, JULY 28
JERSEY CITY—The Women's Center of NJ City University will hold a program on "Women Raising Your Self-Esteem" from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 201-200-3189.
SUNDAY, JULY 30
PLAINFIELD—Residents of JFK Haycock Nursing Center will visit the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center at 11:30 a.m. A pizza lunch will be at 12 noon. Please sign up ahead of time if you're interested. Transportation can be provided. 908-753-3506.

MONDAY, JULY 31
PLAINFIELD—A Bingo party will be held at 1 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. Transportation can be provided. 908-753-3506.
PLAINFIELD—A birthday party for the Plainfield Senior Citizens will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. Transportation can be provided. 908-753-3506.
BROOKLYN—The "Patchwork of Love" will be on display at The Brooklyn Public Library through August 8th. 718-643-6140.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
UPPER MONTCLAIR—A Junior Fly Fishing School, for children aged 12 to 14 is scheduled at Montclair State University's New Jersey School of Conservation in Stokes Lake forest. 973-548-4648.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3
CRANFORD—Union County College offers "News and Annals," a non-credit course to familiarize participants with the field of journalism using a practical, hands-on approach. This course will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays through Thursdays, through August 13th at the Cranford campus. 908-709-7600.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
SKILLMAN—The American Repertory Ballet/Princeton Ballet School presents a Fall Swing Golf and Tennis Outing at the Beden's Brook Club beginning at 10:30 a.m. 732-249-1254.

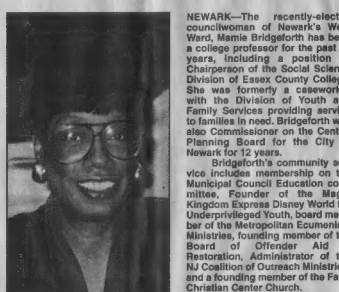
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Plainfield senior citizens celebrate "Juneteenth"



PLAINFIELD—Members of the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center formed "The Non-partisan Senior Citizens Empowerment committee." They in conjunction with "The Plainfield Municipal Alliance" held a "Juneteenth Celebration" recently at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. Pictured Front row from left: Julie Meagher, Plainfield Senior Citizens Center Program Director, Vivian Rowell, Joyce Anne Judd. Pictured Back row from left: Don Noman, Ed Long, Chairman, and Danny Bragg.

Bridgeforth first woman to serve Newark's West Ward



NEWARK—The recently-elected councilwoman of Newark's West Ward, Marnie Bridgeforth has been a college professor for the past 27 years, including a position as Chairperson of the Social Science Division of Essex County College. She was formerly a caseworker with the Division of Youth and Family Services providing service to families in need. Bridgeforth was also Commissioner on the Central Planning Board for the City of Newark for 12 years. Bridgeforth's community service includes membership on the Municipal Council Education Committee, Founder of the Magic Kingdom Express Disney World for Underprivileged Youth, board member of the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministries, founding member of the Board of Offender Aid & Restoration, Administrator of the NJ Coalition of Outreach Ministries, and a founding member of the Faith Christian Center Church.

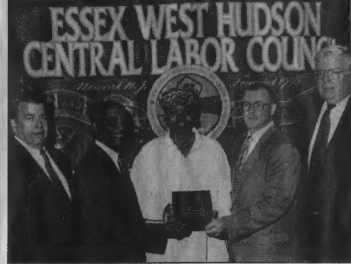
City News is glad to highlight our community people every week.
 Send your photos and information to:
 City News People, P.O. Box 1774,
 Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Celebrating her 59th wedding anniversary



FORT MONMOUTH—Mrs. Dorothy Farrow, Long Branch, is surrounded by her daughters, (l. to r.) Karen Levister Echnal Lightbourns, Sharon Levister at the celebration of her 59th Wedding Anniversary in the Fort Monmouth Community Center. Unfortunately, her husband, Edward, missed the festive occasion, because he suddenly contracted pneumonia and was hospitalized. The affair was planned by Janice Farrow Slathum, and granddaughter, Dawn Everett and family and friends.

Labor Council presents Gunn with 1998 Scholarship Award



NEWARK—The Essex-West Hudson Labor Council, AFL-CIO recently presented Tanya Gunn, of Mount Vernon Place, Newark, with a 1998 Scholarship Award. Along with the \$250 scholarship, Gunn received a plaque and was honored at the annual breakfast. Shown L-R, Thomas H. Kenney, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer, Essex West Hudson Labor Council; Fred Wright, President of Local 819 Amalgamated Transit Union; Tanya Gunn, 1998 Scholarship Recipient; Kevin Frey, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair; and Thomas P. Giblin, President, Essex-West Hudson Labor Council.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

1. You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
2. You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
3. You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
 Civil Rights Division
 Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
 P.O. Box 65998
 Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

NOTE: You must call or write no later than ninety (90) days from August 8, 1998.

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NATIONAL/WORLD
BRIEFSCITIZENS CAUTIONED
ON TRAVELING TO
NIGERIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent crime, by people in police and military uniforms as well as by civilians, was cited recently by the State Department as it cautioned U.S. citizens about travel in Nigeria.

The African country "poses considerable risks to travelers," the department said in a statement. It said that public transportation is dangerous and should be avoided and that tourists are targets for scams by businesses and charities.

JULIAN BOND CALLS
INITIATE 200 AMBUSH
ON EQUALITY

STEVENSON, Wash. (AP) — Bond's affirmative action, blacks would lose out on education and job opportunities, make less money and find it harder to buy homes. NAACP chairman Julian Bond said recently.

"That is because racism is alive and well in America," Bond said in a speech to the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association meeting at the Skamania Hotel.

Affirmative action, by over-coming "white-skin preferences," has helped create the middle-class which constitutes one-third of black America, he said.

1200 has language similar to California's Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action approved by voters there in 1996. The California measure said: "The state shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting." Bond urged supporters of affirmative action to work against the initiative and to go to the polls.

FIRST BLACK NAMED
CHAIR OF COLLEGE'S
GOVERNORS BOARD

R. CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — R. Reynolds Tobacco executive Benjamin Ruffin won a historic, but narrow, vote to become the first black chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Ruffin, 62, retired Charlotte banker Clifford Cameron's bid for re-election recently coming out on top in a 16-15 vote. "Sure it was a close vote, but I'm pleased," Ruffin said a few hours after the vote. "I'm going to work with the board and for the board."

BYRD FAMILY CALLS
FOR TOUGHER HATE-
CRIME STATUTE

HOUSTON (AP) — The grieving family members of James Byrd Jr. thought their loved one's gruesome death would be avenged by the Texas hate crime statute.

Three of Byrd's sisters called on public officials to make the state's hate crime law more specific by singling out crimes committed because of victims' race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or national origin. "The more details that we learn about the way he died, the deeper our pain and our hurt becomes," Byrd's sister Clara Taylor explained to an audience of about 100 people who attended a public hearing on the matter at Houston City Hall.

BET FOUNDER
LAUNCHES FIRST
BLACK FILM STUDIO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The founder of the Black Entertainment Television cable network announced plans to create a black-owned movie studio by the end of the year.

BET owner Robert Johnson said he plans to produce black-themed movies for theaters and made-for-TV films for his network.

"I'm convinced the talent is out there to do it, both behind and in front of the camera," Johnson said. "We can find good, passionate scripts, and I'm convinced we can make them work."

The studio, which will start with a capital investment of \$100 million, will release its theatrical films starting in 2000 on television movies next year, Johnson said.

Evers-Williams receives Springarn Medal

ATLANTA — Coretta Scott King will present Myrtle Evers-Williams with the NAACP's \$500 Springarn Award at its annual convention on July 16 in Atlanta.

The Springarn Medal is considered the highest award in the civil rights area. The first medal was awarded in 1914.

The distinguished award recognizes the highest achievement or "highest or noblest achievement during the preceding year or years." The purpose of the award is to bring attention to distinguished merit and achievement and to serve as a reward for such achievement and as an inspiration to minority youth.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this medal than Myrtle

Evers-Williams," said NAACP President Kweisi Mfume. "Her dedication to the cause of equal opportunity is unparalleled in our community."

NAACP Chairman Julian Bond said he is proud of his predecessor's work to restore the association to greatness. "Myrtle Evers-Williams was the right person at the right time to bring integrity, accountability and stability this historic organization," Bond said.

In 1963, Ms. Evers-Williams accepted the Springarn award posthumously on behalf of her slain husband, Medgar Evers. With the award going to her this year, it marks the first time in the history of the medal that it has gone to two

members of the same family.

Ms. Evers-Williams is the author of a book, *For Us, The Living* (Doubleday and Company, 1967), that depicts the life of her late husband Medgar and the circumstances in Mississippi in the 50's-60's. The book has been recently re-released in paperback by the University of Mississippi Press. Her fight for justice was also the subject of a Rob Reiner film, "Ghosts of Mississippi."

Her other literary achievements include contributing Editor, *Ladies Home Journal*. She was one of the magazines' editors who covered the Vietnam Peace Talks in Paris, France. Her many articles received wide acclaim.



Myrtle Evers-Williams

Denny's asks big brother to stop watching

By Alex Dominguez
Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Four years ago, the Denny's restaurant chain agreed to pay millions of dollars to minority customers, stop discriminatory practices and conduct affirmative action training to settle two highly publicized class action suits.

Complaints against the chain began in 1993, when the restaurant chain agreed to pay millions of dollars to minority customers, stop discriminatory practices and conduct affirmative action training to settle two highly publicized class action suits.

Our track record is so solid... there are discussions underway that we might come out in 1999 because of what we have done," said Rachelle Hood-Phillips, chief diversity officer for the Advanced Restaurant Group, Inc., which operates Denny's.

If the consent decree is dissolved early, Advantia would conduct its own investigations of civil rights complaints, she said.

"We are putting processes and procedures and systems in place so we can keep this going if we come out," Ms. Hood-Phillips said.

One of the class action suits was filed on behalf of a group of black Secret Service agents who said they were denied service at an Annapolis, Md. restaurant while their white counterparts were quickly served. The other suit was filed on behalf of a group of black California students who claimed discrimination in a separate incident.

Denny's denied the allegations, but agreed to the consent decree in 1994. It called for the company to train all employees, stop any discriminatory practices, establish the civil rights monitor's office and notify customers of its new policies.

They have gone above and beyond what is required," he said. Among the changes made were the 1995 hiring of Jim Adamson to head Advantia Restaurant Group. The former head of Burger King is known for his tough stance on discrimination.

Adamson has threatened to fire personnel who did not toe the new corporate line and ordered sensitivity training for Denny's 70,000 employees as well as those working for the company's other chains — Hardee's, Quincey's, El Pollo Loco, Carrows, and Coco's.

The company has also increased minority hiring, placed women and minorities on its board, and increased the number of minority vendors.

That, however, has not stopped complaints.

While on a field trip to Disney World in May, about 40 black elementary school students and chaperones from Baltimore said they were not greeted or seated at Denny's restaurant in Occoquan, Va.

and left after an hour without being served. Meanwhile, white customers arriving later were served, school officials said.

John Romandetti, Denny's president, later apologized to the students.

This month, three homosexuals filed suit in California against Denny's claiming they were given poor service on a number of occasions and were once told to find another place to eat because they were gay.

A former Denny's employee corroborated the story, saying the restaurant's manager told workers to give the three poor service.

Also in May, five black customers filed suit in Orlando, claiming they were seated behind a parti-

tion and ignored by waitresses. In April 1997, Asian and black Syracuse University students complained they were denied service at a Denny's restaurant and assaulted by whites in the parking lot after they were escorted out.

Elizabeth OuYang, staff attorney for the New York-based Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said an investigation by the civil rights monitor's office found several employees did not receive required sensitivity training.

Several employees of the restaurant were fired following the incident, but Ms. OuYang said she is seeking additional changes at the company and unspecified monetary damages.

Clinton gets
support for
affirmative
action policy

NEW YORK — The National Minority Business Council, Inc. supports the White House Affirmative Action Policy that will continue to give an advantage to minority owned firms competing for government contracts, if it's an area that shows historical underrepresentation of minority businesses. However, in industries or parts of the country where minorities are receiving their fair share of the market, these firms will not receive any advantage.

The NMBC feels that the announced policy is consistent with President Clinton's promise "to mend it, not end it," in his position taken last year on affirmative action programs for minority firms. While there are some who will say that the new policy does not serve the full interest of minority companies throughout the United States, and others who maintain that race and ethnicity should never be a factor in awarding government contracts.

The NMBC believes that the new White House policy addresses fairness and effectiveness.

The representation of minority businesses is not uniform in all industries. The NMBC insists on parity and equal opportunity for all, and revokes the stigma of unfair advantage based solely on race and ethnicity.

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The train not wait for you

Okay, this is the deal. Collectively you've worked your plan and not turned back. The event is set and you're at a point where there is no planning back. You get to that point of no return and look around to find that one of your most important elements is missing, bringing everything else up short. The component that is crucial to the presentation is nowhere to be found.

If a production is to be successful, laying a foundation and setting guidelines and limits in place is all-important. Like someone who is drawing a picture, the large areas must be correctly shaped before you can delineate light and shadow. By the same token, in any enterprise every individual must see fun functions and focus on those functions. The self-help books that litter the bookstore shelves are filled with tips on preciseness, conciseness, punctuality and reliability because they can bank on the fact that anything less will fail.

"C.P. time" and excuses might be laid back, "chill" and fashionable; you can even get over with your friends. But it's neither successful nor professional. It's doesn't make it and it won't make it in the millennium. The train may stop for you, but it won't wait very long.

Black college students heed the call to service

By Marian Wright Edelman

Last month at the former Alex Haley Farm in Tennessee, more than 290 African American college students and college-age adults from Children's Defense Fund's Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) completed a rigorous two-week training program that prepared them to serve low-income children at 33 Freedom Schools in 12 states and the District of Columbia this summer.

Our black youths are answering the call. The crisis children face in communities all over this country demands immediate action, not talk. It's so grateful that these young people are inspired and motivated by the same sense of purpose that I felt as a college student in 1960 to work to reclaim our communities and our children.

Freedom School training teaches college-age leaders to help children by combining feeding programs with cultural and education enrichment, as well as with recreation, advocacy, and conflict management. Parents must work weekly seminars and are involved in their children's progress. The adult sponsors and college-age interns graduated from Freedom School training through the Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute, held this year at the University of Tennessee and at the former Alex Haley Farm in Tennessee, which is the spiritual home for the BCCC and CDF's center for intergenerational leadership development. Founded in 1970 in honor of Mrs. Ella Baker, who was an inspiration to thousands of young people like me in the Civil

Farrakhan, Ture and forging unity 'Bond'

By Askin Muhammad

In addition to ample evidence of his personal courage, Kwame Ture (formerly known as Stokely Carmichael) has won confronted profound professional challenge. He recently stepped in as a fill-in at the head-quarters of the NAACP in Baltimore, in the office of Board Chairman Julian Bond, demanding that Mr. Bond meet to discuss with Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

Once again Brother Kwame has justified his inclusion in my Pantheon of Black Heroes.

Don't get me wrong. I admire and recognize Mr. Bond's considerable stature and leadership. When he spoke recently at a luncheon at the National Press Club, Mr. Bond asked me to sit at his head table.

In 1983, at the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington, I saw Mr. Bond literally jump for joy, when Minister Farrakhan spoke "Mr. Louis! Run!" Mr. Bond shouted, paraphrasing the popular slogan of the day "Run Jesse! Run!" Which was meant to ridicule the 1984 presidential campaign.

Indeed, in 1972, I was told by NAACP National Board Member and ministerial advisor Joe Madison: Mr. Bond's participation in the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, was literally saved from oblivion by Brother Elijah Muhammad. Mr. Muhammad gave Mr. Bond \$6,000 in cash, with which

he was able to bring his political supporters to town from Georgia, so that they could challenge the sitting Democratic delegation, and put Mr. Bond's name into nomination for Vice President.

But in April this year, Mr. Bond showed up at an unprecedented, low-attending Minister Farrakhan, without provocation, without justifiable predicament, in the opening remarks of a speech from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

In Mr. Bond's words: Minister Farrakhan is the "most prominent" threat to cooperation between whites and blacks, Jews and Gentiles," because of his "increasingly vocal anti-Semitism." An untrue, and unnecessary statement, as well as a rank, patronizing, and empty gesture by Mr. Bond.

After Harold Cruse, offered an explanation for Mr. Bond's behavior in his critically acclaimed book, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual*, wrote: "For many years, Mr. Bond was a 'black nationalist' in the most realistic sense." Mr. Cruse wrote: "Negroes have either been uncritically pro-Jewish or critically unguided."

Such a statement, which is not only partly from the fact that Negro intellectuals and critics allow Jews to deal with the Negro issue on their own terms from their position of social power."

While Minister Farrakhan has been silent on the issue, Kwame Ture, despite his own physical body, is waging a larger battle for unity within the "body" of black leadership. I congratulate him.

Askin Muhammad is a Washington, D.C.-based journalist.

Morality over money

By Mike Ramsey

I recently saw a very interesting and funny video entitled "Africa and Bellbottoms." It featured the well-known African-American comic and television talk show host Simba.

He said I was a bit skeptical. With many comics making fortunes by tossing around jokes about bodily functions, four-letter words and sexual situations, I felt they were leaving falling from trees, I hoped Simba's video would be a welcome departure from this valley of filth and profanity.

Much to my surprise, the 74-minute presentation was squeakily clean and tasteful. Simba's performance was a romp through the 70's — from plastic-covered furniture to two-parent families to date when layaway was a thing.

There was one thing that puzzled me, but it was not on the video. Instead, it is about ourselves as a people.

Whatever happened to the promises made by black writers, actors and actresses and producers that they existed to give pleasure to white audiences and movies that "bring out the best in our people?"

It seems to me that the promises of better entertainment for us and for our people have gone the way of penny candy. We still have black comedians, but their politics and attitudes can best be described as obscene. And the more obscene the better for the black bottom-line in far too many cases.

The black movie classic "Sounder" has been replaced by modern movies like "Soul Food." Earth, Wind & Fire has been bumped

because many of us, in our various communities, have forgotten that along with black pride comes morality. A sense of morality passed on to many of us by grandparents and parents who lived, loved and worked through areas of American history where they existed in a fraction of the physical blessings we see in our communities in the present.

Before I click on the tube, video or movie theater, we should ask ourselves one simple question as we watch our entertainment: "What would our mothers and fathers think if I brought this into their home?"

Mike Ramsey, a member of the National Advisory Council of the African-American leadership network Project 21, is a minister and columnist in Indianapolis, Indiana.

About Martin R. Delany

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

Earlier this year, my family and I traveled with more than twenty members of the Kenetic Institute to Wilberforce, Ohio to participate in a commemorative celebration of the greatness of the great and unsung Pan-Africanist leader of the 19th century, Martin R. Delany.

Most people in the United States are at least familiar with the name and personality of Frederick Douglass and so I will not undertake to discuss who he was. Unfortunately, most people in the United States have never heard of Martin R. Delany even though he was one of the most important leaders of the mid and late 19th century.

Many of us in the Pan-Africanist/Nationalist Movement have been researching and studying the life of Martin R. Delany for over twenty-five years. However, until recently we were not aware of the exact location of his gravesite.

Apparently, Jon Wilkerson of Cedarville, Ohio, a white gentleman and a retired Ohio Air National Guardsman, along with Dr. Floyd Thomas, the white curator of the National African-American Museum in Wilberforce, on the campus of Central State University, have discovered the Delany gravesite.

Who was Martin R. Delany? Delany was an educator, author, physician, abolitionist, emigrationist, newspaper publisher, explorer, scientist, inventor, Army Officer, politician, and Pan-Africanist/Nationalist leader.

There is so much to write about concerning the life of Martin R. Delany that I will write periodic articles that address aspects of his significant and profound contributions to the liberation of African people worldwide.

Dr. Worrill is a member of the National Advisory Council of the African-American leadership network Project 21, is a minister and columnist in Indianapolis, Indiana.

FIELD ASSIGNMENT 'Sexgate'

By Walter Fields

The seemingly never-ending investigation of President Clinton continues to command the nation's attention. The dogged pursuit of the president by Independent Counsel Ken Starr has turned into a marathon with no end in sight. That started out as an investigation into a failed real estate deal in the president's home state of Arkansas has evolved into a seedy Oval Office scandal. At the heart of the controversy is a well-heeled and politically connected ex-White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. Surrounding Lewinsky are a cast of characters straight out of a Jackie Collins novel; a disgruntled bureaucrat—Linda Tripp, a shady and sinister literary agent—Luciane Goldberg, a high powered DC insider—attorney Vernon Jordan, and the consummate DC power lawyer—Buck Bennett. Hollywood couldn't write a better script.

The central focus of the investigation appears to be whether President Clinton, through his close advisers encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie regarding their relationship. Lewinsky has already sworn to the contrary in an affidavit filed in the now dismissed Paula Jones lawsuit. The president was never caught under oath. If Starr's investigation were to find that President Clinton lied under oath, that would be a scandal. It would also constitute grounds for the firing of articles of impeachment with the House of Representatives.

Standing of the periphery of this scandal is the supporting cast of Tripp, Goldberg and Jordan. Linda Tripp is a former White House intern with Lewinsky and those tapes have been the subject of much speculation. The contents of those tapes may not be made public, but regarding what transpired between the intern and the president. Goldberg, a confidant of Tripp stands at the ready to turn the scan-

Human rights violation probe completed in Congo

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Hutu refugees, frightened into fleeing by radio broadcasts falsely announcing that all Hutus would be killed in revenge by the new Rwandan government.

The arrival of these refugees in Zaire provoked a humanitarian operation which, despite the good intentions of many heroic aid workers, was a disaster in itself. The United Nations failed to disarm the refugees, or to separate civilians from combatants. They allowed the camps to be set up close to the border with Rwanda, and the soldiers sheltered there used the camps as staging grounds for attacks on the new Rwandan government. Refugees in the camps were not protected from the new Rwandan government-in-exile re-established itself in the camps, incredibly, the aid agencies related to this regime as a legitimate authority over the refugees, and these criminals with the distribution of food and other survival needs.

Because the investigative team was prohibited from entering the new Congolese government did not fully cooperate with it, and little actual forensic work was accomplished. Although the investigative team assembled ample evidence that many, many people met violent deaths during the Congo's civil war, it did not prove that the ADLF forces deliberately committed violations of humanitarian law, or crimes against humanity. This finding, together with the authority over the refugees, enticed the Congolese government to attempt to initiate its own investigation, with helpfully put an end to the international community's gratuitous exercise. Perhaps at long last, the new Congolese government will be permitted to turn its full attention to the needs of the surviving victims of this tragedy, and to the rebuilding of a democratic Congo.

Lenora B. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

N'COBRA continues demand for reparations

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

Recently, the National Coalition for Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) held its Ninth Annual Convention, June 26-28, 1998 in Hampton, Virginia.

Under the leadership of National co-chairs Johnnetta Scott and Hamblin Afrif, plus numerous brothers and sisters throughout the United States, the Reparations Movement has worked diligently to bring this issue before the masses of African people in the United States who are now beginning to discuss, more vigorously, the need to intensify our demand for reparations. They are not only demanding reparations from the United States government but all the countries and institutions that participated in the slave trade.

Reparations for African people in the United States is commonly meant to be: "the demand for the U.S. slaves and their descendants, from the government of the United States of America and its individual white men, women, and children, and all other of the infrastructure and their heirs, following in interest, inheritance, use of benefits through succession, for payment and return for restoring and tax-

The National Black United Front (NBUF) is located at 12817 South Ashland Avenue, Suite 1, Culpeper Park, Illinois, 60827, 708-389-9929. Fax: # 708-379-9819, E-mail: nbu@nbf.org

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

NEW YORK — A two-day expo "Customer Relationship Management Through Integrated Business Solutions" at the Jacob Javits Center. For more information, call 1-800-324-3978.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

NEW YORK — A one-day seminar titled "The Better Business Writing Workshop" held at the New York Marriott East Side. For more information, call 1-800-255-4141.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

NEWARK — Chase Manhattan Bank hosts a forum where community leaders, economic development officials and members of non-profit organizations will discuss economic development efforts, faith-based community development initiatives and welfare to work initiatives. Sessions will be held from 3-5 p.m. at The Newark Club and 10 a.m. — noon at The Brownstone House in Paterson. For more information, call 1-888-CHASE-11.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

FAIRFIELD — A two-day seminar on facilities management held at the Best Western Executive Inn from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register or for more information, call 1-800-821-3919.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

EDISON — A comprehensive two-day workshop on Business Writing & Grammar Skills held at the Clarion Hotel at Edison Square. To enroll and for more information, call 1-800-258-7246.

ATLANTA — The Black Professional Secretaries Association hosts the 9th Annual Professional Development Conference at the Atlanta Renaissance Hotel. Workshops include building a web page, and preparing for the "virtual office." For more information, call 215-893-9005.

PENNSYLVANIA — "Come Meet The Buyers" in a public-private forum sponsored by GPU Energy in Reading, Pennsylvania. For more information, call 1-800-673-9977.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

SOMERSET — The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for their Recognition of Outstanding Business People award on November 4. For more information, call 908-725-1852.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

EDISON — A one-day seminar titled "Business Writing Basics for Professionals" at the Ramada Inn. For more information, call 1-800-673-7545.

Send calendar events, business news and promotions to:
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Bank starts loan programs worth \$103 million dollars

WAYNE — Valley National Bank and New Jersey Citizen Action have signed an agreement that will make at least \$103 million in loan programs and investments available over the next five years for affordable housing and economic development projects to benefit low- and moderate-income residents primarily throughout Valley's service area. The new agreement follows a three-year, \$26 million program established by the two groups in 1994.

The programs include \$57 million in single family (1-4 unit) loan products, \$25.5 million in community development financing, \$20 million in economic development loans and \$750,000 in grants.

The \$57 million in retail lending products includes \$45 million for affordable home mortgage products. The \$45 million affordable home mortgage products are available in 30-year fixed and adjustable rate loans.

Additionally, \$15 million is available for Valley's affordable mortgage refinancing product geared for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Applicants to the \$5 million community home buyer's program must satisfy the home eligibility criteria for the Family Mae Community Home Buyer's Program and have completed credit counseling.

Weighing stock fund investment options

Dale G. Caldwell

Last week, I discussed the three major types of mutual funds (money market funds, bond funds and stock funds). Investing in stock funds has proven to be one of the best ways to achieve your financial goals. However, each stock mutual fund has a specific investment objective. Before investing, it is important that you understand the different investment objectives of stock mutual funds. The major stock mutual fund objectives and the fund objective code (listed in parentheses) used in the Wall Street Journal include the following:

Balanced (BL):

Invests in conservative stocks and bonds.

Capital Appreciation (CP):

Focused on achieving rapid capital growth by frequently buying and selling stocks.

Emerging Markets (EM):

Contains stocks of emerging companies.

Equity Income (GI):

Invests in stocks with the highest dividend income.

Global (GL):

Contains international and United States based stocks.

Gold (AU):

Usually invests in gold mines, bullion and coins.

Growth (GR):

Contains stocks that can potentially yield above-average revenue and earnings growth.

Growth & Income (GI):

Contains stocks that will achieve higher than average price and dividend income growth.

International (IL):

Invests only in international stocks.

Mid Cap (MC):

Invests in stocks of middle sized companies.

Small Cap (SC):

Contains stocks of smaller companies.

The Balanced and Equity income mutual funds are typically the least risky funds. The Emerging Markets, Global, Gold, International, Sector and Small Cap mutual funds tend to be the most risky.

The best way to begin developing an investment portfolio is to review the mutual fund listings of a major newspaper and track mutual funds with different investment objectives. This approach helps you learn how to read mutual fund quotations and become comfortable with mutual fund investing. Moreover, you will better understand the risks associated with certain types of mutual funds without investing any money.

I have found the Wall Street Journal's mutual fund tables one of the easiest to read. There are eleven different pieces of information for each mutual fund. On the far left of each mutual fund listing is the Net Asset Value (NAV) is listed (the NAV represents the per share value of each share of the mutual fund). Second to the left is the NAV change from the previous day. Third from the left is the mutual fund name. Fourth from the left is the two letter fund objective code (as listed above). Fifth from the left is the year-to-date NAV change and accumulated income for the period in percent. Sixth from the left is the same information for the last four weeks. Seventh from the left is the same information for the last twelve months. This listing includes a ranking of the mutual fund against other mutual funds with the same objective. A equals the top 20 percent, B equals the next 20 percent, C equals the middle 20 percent, D equals the next 20 percent and E equals the bottom 20 percent. Eighth from the left is the same information for the last three years (including the comparative letter code). Ninth from the left is the same information for the last five years (including the comparative letter code). Tenth from the left is the maximum initial sales commission in percent. Eleventh from the left are the annual expenses (in percentage terms).

At first this may sound complicated. However, after reading the mutual fund listings for a week it will become second nature. So, pick up a paper today. The sooner you start reviewing mutual fund listings the sooner you will become comfortable investing in mutual funds.

Dale G. Caldwell is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC), a former Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and a National Director of Recruiting at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

Jersey City Contractors assistance program graduates local businessmen



JERSEY CITY — It was a great evening for Ricky Simms, (left photo) president of Ricky Simms Cleaning Services, as he receives his graduation certificate for successfully completing the Jersey City eight-week Contractors Assistance Program. Moments earlier, he was notified he was the lowest responsible bidder on a contract he had sought which almost triples the size of his previously largest contract. Celebrating Ricky (holding certificate) is Jersey City's Deputy Mayor G. Maxwell Jones (left), Bill Brooks of the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors and Kabili Taylor, director of Jersey City's Department of Economic Opportunity. Shown at photo on right is Laron Washington, president of L&J Marketing, general construction, holds his graduation certificate.

Greg Williams named member of NJ Development Authority

TRENTON — Greg Williams, President of the Mercer County Business Association was just appointed by Governor Whitman to serve as a member of the New Jersey Development Authority for Small Business, Minorities and Women's Enterprises. The Authority works to advance the interests of small, women and minority owned businesses in the state. Williams, the owner of an Information Technology and Telecommunications firm in Trenton, has a history of advocacy for small business and their owners.



Greg Williams

Williams said, "The Mercer County Business Association and the Authority have similar goals and objectives. This appointment gives me and MCBA an increased opportunity to bring issues affecting small businesses in New Jersey to the table."

"I look forward to working with the other members of the Authority to continue the Governor's longstanding commitment to small business."

Bill expected to lure businesses

TRENTON (AP) — The state Senate recently passed a bill that would sweeten the incentive program used by New Jersey to attract new business, including the New York Stock Exchange, to the state.

The legislation would enhance the "Business Employment Incentive Program Act," which currently offers businesses a rebate of up to 80 percent of the income taxes paid by new employees for up to 10 years. The bill expands the law to provide similar tax incentives for a relocating financial exchange or partnership.

"The fact that the New York Stock Exchange had even considered coming to New Jersey is an important signal about our state to businesses across America and around the world," said Kyrtlos.

The New York Stock Exchange, which has made its home on Wall Street in lower Manhattan since the early 19th century, has told city officials that it is preparing to move to a new building in Battery Park City along the Hudson River.

Gov. Christie Whitman's staff reportedly has made overtures to bring the exchange to Jersey City, where brokerage houses and the Dow Jones news service have operations.

Kyrtlos said the bill would give state Commerce Commissioner Guadalupe Medina another tool to use in negotiations to bring the New York Stock Exchange to New Jersey. The bill, S-1002, passed, 36-0, and was sent to the Assembly.

State Assembly passes home-based business bill

TRENTON (AP) — Home businesses in residential areas would be automatically legal as long as they only employ family members and don't generate excessive traffic in the neighborhood, under a bill that passed the state Assembly recently.

The bill exempts homeowners from having to seek a use variance if they want to operate a home-based business. But, it stipulates that the business can't bring excessive traffic, noise or other disturbances to a neighborhood.

The bill, A-112, is designed to allow an increasing number of home-based businesses to operate without fear of being put out of business by local zoning laws. It passed the Assembly, 41-23.

"Over the past decade, the state has gained over a quarter million new home-based service oriented businesses and employees," said Assembly Speaker James E. McGreevey, a bill sponsor. "All the while, New Jersey is still enforcing ordinances enacted in the 1960s and 1970s, which are not conducive to the booming home-based business trend of today's economy."

But the New Jersey League of Municipalities opposes the bill, saying it could allow retail, manufacturing and other inappropriate businesses in residential neighborhoods, said Bill Dresdner, executive director.

The league wants lawmakers to limit legitimate home-based businesses to telecommunications and office use. The measure now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Foreigners Do So Well. "Obstacles to Black Economic Development," "The Responsibility of Being an African American Consumer" and "Starting Your Own Business."

Kunju is an education consultant with African American Images. He is constantly on the lecture circuit with over thirty different workshops addressing students, parents, teachers and community residents. He is the author of many books including *Motivating and Preparing Black Youth for Success*, *To Be Popular in Your Community?*, *Should I Be Popularity?*, *Smart: The Black Peer Group*, and *Conquering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys, Vols. I, II, and III*.

Jawanza Kunju

How a greater priority than politics? How can we empower ourselves and our community for economic gain? Those are questions and more are answered in Jawanza Kunju's book *Black Economic Solutions for Economic and Community Empowerment*.

Several of the outstanding chapters in Kunju's text include "Why

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Local Briefs

Unemployment in Elizabeth down 17 percent

ELIZABETH—The City's unemployment rate has dropped 17 percent over the last two years. The most recent statistics for the full year 1997 were released by the U.S. Department of Labor. Furthermore, the unemployment rate has gone down for the fifth year in a row, Mayor Chris Bollagave announced.

"We have done a great deal to revitalize our city and lay the foundation for economic development," Bollagave said. "The economic rebirth and steady growth of the last five years has positioned Elizabeth as a solid city of continued development and renewed energy."

Bollagave also noted that the City has laid the foundation for continued growth, with more than \$500 million in new development coming on line. In partnership with Union County, Elizabeth is also working to create a Cross County rail link that will make the City's culture and commerce easily accessible to other parts of Union County.

IRS announces problem solving days

NEWARK—New Jerseyans with long standing tax problems will be able to meet with TRS employees face-to-face at two upcoming Problem Solving Days scheduled from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations: August 12 at 5218 Atlantic Avenue in Wayne, Landover, and September 23 at 100 Day Place in Edison, Acting IRS New Jersey District Director Napoleon Avery said.

Since the IRS' Problem Solving Days began last November, over 25,000 people nationwide have been given assistance either through walk-in service or over the telephone, Avery said.

Taxpayers who are unable to come on these dates can always call the IRS toll-free line — 1-800-829-1040—Monday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to request their problem be referred to the Taxpayer Advocate.

"We want to help taxpayers who have been unable to resolve their problems. At our previous Problem Solving Days we helped approximately 900 taxpayers resolve their on-going tax problems," Avery said.

Health center celebrates second year

PLAINFIELD—For nearly three decades, Plainfield Health Center (PHC) has been providing quality health care to the community members of the greater Plainfield area. Through an expanded range of services, designed to meet the changing needs of PHC patients, and affiliations with the Mubenberg Regional Medical Center and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, PHC remains dedicated to serving the health needs of every community resident regardless of their ability to pay.

PHC recently celebrated its second anniversary in its new facility. After over twenty years of providing services in a smaller space, PHC relocated to a new, 34,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building in June 1996. This move has allowed the health center to more efficiently and effectively administer care to the residents of Plainfield and the surrounding communities.

"It's because of the hard work and dedication of many that Plainfield Health Center started as a small, fledgling health center and has become the nationally recognized provider of community-based health care that it is today," said Juliane Miller, PHC president and CEO. "Our new facility has allowed us to expand our capabilities and services, becoming one of the few New Jersey centers with Medicare certification, to better serve the diverse medical needs of our patients."

Union County celebrates rebirth

ELIZABETH—Union County Freeholders, state officials and business leaders joined each other for a breakfast meeting of the Union County Alliance held at ULFAire recently. The theme of this year's meeting was "From Survival to Renaissance."

"We have come along way since the Union County Alliance was formed five years ago," Chairman Sullivan said. "We have gone from being the county with the lowest growth rate in the state with unemployment at 8.9 percent and more companies leaving than coming in, to an unemployment figure of 5.4 percent and dropping. We are enjoying a true renaissance in Union County. Alliance President Henry Ross said, "Five years ago, the county was on the decline and officials knew that they had to



work more effectively with legislators, state government, business and labor to change direction. The Alliance was created so that together we could fight for the recovery of the county." State Senate President Donald DiFrancesco noted the bipartisan effort that

has gone into moving the county from Survival to Renaissance. "I am proud to have worked closely with the Alliance for the past several years and look forward to working in building a Gateway to the region right here in Union County."

Monmouth County Urban League holds annual dinner Davis supported by WISOMMM

By g. mattox

NEWARK—Women In Support Of The Million Man March (WISOMMM) coordinator Fredricka Bey recently visited the organization's support for East Orange Police Officer DeLacy Davis. Davis was recently suspended from the Essex County Police PBA for a period of 90 days and fined \$500 for comments he made at an anti-police brutality rally in Madison on November 8. The charges according to the PBA Chairman William Brennan allege that Davis was

quoted as stating that the "culture of law enforcement was so racist as it dates to be" and was sexist and homophobic.

Davis contends that his position is truthful and protected under the United States Constitution. He has been "ordered to cease and desist" with the actions and comments that brought about these charges. "This is the 'code of silence' at its best," said Davis.

In a letter to Mike Materazzo of the New Jersey State PBA Judicial Committee, Bey said, "This is a revivitation of the 'Druid Scott'

decision which said, 'A black man has as much right as a white man is bound to uphold.' DeLacy Davis has the same rights of freedom of speech as any other taxpayer voting citizen."

Recently Officer Davis was interviewed about this incident by the WRAI-FM radio program "Emanations." During the interview, he said that black and Latino police officers have a greater responsibility to our community in that it is our people that are being shot down, assaulted, brutally beaten and killed by the police."



Dr. Antonio Lewis, right, principal of the Asbury Park Middle School, presents Monmouth County Urban League Youth Award to Aaron Rouse. Looking on are award recipients, Corinne Burton and Laura C. Nieves.

By Avery Grant

TINTON FALLS—At its 5th Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner, The Monmouth County Urban League honored many for their achievements and service to the community and the league.

Corporate awards were presented to CoreStates Bank and Monmouth Medical Center for their support of league activities. And the Community Service award went to the Pleasant Baptist Church of Mt. Pleasant, for its weekly Crossroad column and its unbiased reporting on issues of significance to the minority community.

The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. W. Franklin Richardson, pastor of the 3000 member Pleasant Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon N.Y. and Secretary of the National Baptist Conference. Rev. Richardson gave a very strong message that we must work together to overcome the great mistake that was made at the birth of this nation, "that it defined one group of people less than human, that it haunts this country today, and we are struggling to overcome this drastic mistake at the door of the 21st Century."

He added, "That's why it is so important that the national and local Urban Leagues have chosen our children as their focus, since it must be a generational effort." Being quite direct, Rev. Richardson said, "I believe in America, and I believe in people working together, but we must confess that there is a problem in this country, that is racism, and it continues to diminish the quality of life for all of us."

Addressing today's racism in corporate life as covert and high tech, Rev. Richardson, admonished the corporations, saying, "Corporate America don't feel that you meet your obligation by coming to the Urban League dinner once a year and buying a table; you must come here, be informed and go back and do what is right."

Leon Harris, News Anchor for television's CNN, was the Master of Ceremonies for the dinner in the Fort Monmouth Officers' Club.

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Lifestyles

Farming outside your back door

By g.r. mattox

The long days and warm temperatures of summertime coaxes city residents out into the streets or encourages them to stay out after



Penny Bowe picks a pepper from the garden she and her husband share on the side of their home.

completing the work day. Many of these people can be found in empty lots and backyards of the urban landscape among green growing plants that yield fruits, flowers and vegetables.

Vegetable gardening is a popular activity for many urban residents. Whether it's a backyard full of neat rows of plants heavy with pickings, the pot of tomatoes on a fire escape, or a communal plot tended by an organized group, growing things make the observer smile and take a second look.

After coming in from a round of errands, Penny Bowe parks her car and goes straight to the garden on the side of her house. The plot of land is a fixture in her East Orange community because her husband Lindberg has been farming the land for over 45 years.

The land is planted with the usual vegetables that make good eating at our dinner tables: various types of squash, string beans, tomatoes, greens, cucumbers and eggplant. "It's a way to keep busy during the summer," says Mrs. Bowe, who works as a school crossing guard. "It's something interesting to do in the summertime. The cooking and eating of something you've grown from a seed is very satisfying."

On the other side of town, there is an organized gardening project in a large plot of land on a street behind East Orange High School. Called the



Gardeners Arthur Kennedy, Leroy Bellamy and Gloria Connelly check on the plants in one of the community garden plots in East Orange.

Williams Street Garden 1, the project is sponsored by the Rutgers Urban Garden, which provides technical assistance, and the East Orange Police Department. The project is four years old and every year a new section for 25 plots is added and there are about 100 people involved in this project.

Leroy Bellamy has a plot in section one and says that gardening for him here is not much different from the yard garden he help grow in his hometown of Bellamy, South

Carolina. I like to see stuff grow," he said. "I like to plant. A lot of times when I plant, I just plant it for the people."

Gloria Connelly, a secretary for section one group, agrees with Bellamy. "We grow our vegetables just for the fun of it and give the stuff away—who can grow the hottest peppers, who can grow the prettiest tomatoes. Every year we try something new to see if it can grow well in the city, and this year we are experimenting with corn.

The group shares planting tips cuttings and seeds. Although there is friendly rivalry between the plots and sections, one of the high points of the growing season is the competition with the Rutgers Urban Garden in Newark.

"We make a good showing every year," said Lieutenant Ronald Borgo, garden representative from the East Orange Police department. He said that the department received a grant to start the project and now the police give the urban gardeners "any help

they need." In past years this included lighting from PSE&G, clean up from the department of Public Works, and water from the Water Department. "The residents have empowered themselves in this project, and it's made a big difference in the neighborhood," he said.

"It's a positive thing for the community," Connelly said. Everybody thinks that there is nothing but crime and drugs in urban areas. This is good, constructive and we're very proud of it."

Get it straight off the farm

By g.r. mattox

The area surrounding Freehold in Monmouth County is farm country. Many of these farms that grow and tend vegetables give the public an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and save money by picking their own vegetables.

DeWolf's Farm is a popular Pick-Your-Own farm. This family owned farm has been in existence since 1704 and the operation moved to New Egypt in 1967.

"We began the pick your own operation in the mid 1970's, and it's been a great success," a spokesman

for the farm said. "People from different ethnic backgrounds have asked us to grow different vegetables such as callaloo, calabasa, tomatoes and fava bean.

After many requests, the farm has planted white potatoes. Right now popular pickings include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and lima beans.

Nearby Hallock's U-Pick Farm is an operation composed of what you can pick yourself, what has been picked for you, and a greenhouse that sells flowers and vegetable plants. The farm give tours of the greenhouse and offers gardening

tips from March to July, and they welcome and arrange for bus outings.

A word to the wise, this type of activity is not for the late riser. One regular picker says, "The best time to get in the field is about 6 a.m. in the morning. Get what you want and get out. After 10 a.m. on these hot days the vegetables will wilt and to will you."

For more information on what's ready to be picked, call these places: One regular picker says, "The best time to get in the field is about 6 a.m. in the morning. Get what you want and get out. After 10 a.m. on these hot days the vegetables will wilt and to will you."

Farmers markets bring produce to city streets



Wednesday's are market days when the Farmers Market comes to Journal Square in Jersey City.

Remembering 'The Plant Man'

By g.r. mattox

"It's almost time out for this stuff," Dee Dee Britt says as she sits beside a tray of bright green tomato seedlings standing tall in their trays like soldiers.

Britt now owns Enterprise Florists and Plant Shop on West Market St. near Central Avenue in Newark. For those of us who love to garden, but need that head start, Enterprise is the place to go. The business was run for years by Carl Britt, Dee Dee's father. A big, easy-going guy that you never saw without his cowboy hat and stogie, Carl Britt had the seedlings you needed to start your home vegetable and herb gardens.

His good customers were devastated to learn that Carl Brady Britt, Sr. died last year in May. "It's very hard for me," Dee Dee said. "People were coming up here at the beginning of the season wanting to see 'the plant man'—where's that plant man."

Some days I just didn't want to open up.

"My father named the business 'Enterprise' after his hometown in Alabama," Dee Dee continues. He brought a little of his home and his ways with him. "Like most planters, gardeners and farmers, the growing was the thing—he gave away as much as he sold. "Anything that has to do with digging in the dirt and watching things grow, he loved it. He couldn't wait for the season to start to be could set the seedlings out.

In fact, that's what he used to say all the time: 'I just love to watch it grow.'"

Carl Britt always had the time to tell you how often to water, when and how to use fertilizer, what seedlings would do well and what would give you problems. If he didn't have what you wanted, he made an effort to get it. He also kept plenty of what you liked in stock—



The Plant Man
Carl Brady Britt, Sr.
1938-1997
Founder of Enterprise Florist and Plant Shop

couple of years ago he couldn't keep white eggplant in the shop it was so popular. He also brought in herbs like Cilantro for his Hispanic customers.

With her father's firm foundation, Dee Dee Britt is picking up where he left off. Although the major activity is over for the season there is still a wide variety of seedlings to be had for the late planter—especially those of collard greens.

On this hot, quiet afternoon, Dee Dee takes a moment to sit on the stoop of the shop before going to make deliveries. Thinking about her dad, she bows and shakes her head. "I miss him, especially here. Everybody's still looking for that plant man."



Dee Dee Britt has taken up where her father left off.

CAMDEN (AP)—The farm comes to the city on Fridays.

A produce stand opened for business on a bustling downtown street corner, offering luscious fruits and vegetables. It is the only one of its type in a city where just-picked produce is a luxury.

"I think it's great they have this down here," said Ruth Vasquez, 47, of Camden, after buying a bag of peaches. "Sometimes I hardly buy fruit."

At the other end of the state, the popular Farmers Market returned to the Journal Square Transportation Center for the summer. The bustling market is now in its fourth year and it offers "Jersey Fresh" produce, will operate from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday.

"This colorful market offers everything from arugula to zucchini," said PATH Director Michael P. DePallo. "We look forward to the farmers' return every year, and we expect the popularity of the Farmers Market will increase with its move from the transportation center's sidewalks onto the Plaza at Journal Square.

Of the two cities, the Farmer's

Market is especially needed in Camden, an impoverished city of 87,000. Although there are two supermarkets in the city, but the stores are not readily accessible by public transportation. Many residents go to neighborhood groceries where produce is often too expensive or hard to find.

Now, locally grown farm produce will be on sale every Friday through Oct. 30 at the Community Farmers' Market at the corner of Broadway and Mickle Boulevard. There are even demonstrations on how to select and cook the produce.

Promoters spearheaded the market to provide nutritious alternatives, especially to young mothers and children in the city, said Carol Wolff, executive director of the Camden Area Health Education Center. About half the city's population is under 21.

"We're a fast-food generation," said Wolff. "A lot of people are not used to buying fresh produce."

Farmers Bonnie Pastore, of Hammonton, delivered the first shipment of produce—mostly grown on her 300-acre family-run vegetable and fruit farm. Ripened

peaches, berries, plums, corn, peppers, potatoes, apples were neatly displayed under a brightly colored canopy.

Few teenagers worked the stand in the sweltering heat, occasionally asking Pastore for a price when someone wanted to buy a single piece of fruit. Free samples were also available as well as health screenings and brochures.

"It's nice to introduce people to fresh produce," Pastore said. The health education center received a \$5,000 grant from the county and donations from the three hospitals in Camden to fund the market. It got technical assistance from the Reading Terminal Farmers' Trust in Philadelphia.

Wolff blames poor diets for some of the health problems suffered by low-income residents in the city. They often substitute canned and processed fruits and vegetable for fresh produce, she said.

"There are so many health issues that are impacted by good nutrition," said Wolff. "If you can't buy it or get access at a reasonable cost, you're not going to include it in the diet."

Health Calendar

SUNDAY, JULY 19

WARREN—Blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the Red Cross and New Jersey Blood Services at Our Lady of the Mount. For more info, please call 908-756-6414.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

NEWARK—The New Jersey Children's Health Project will take place every Tuesday at Friendly Fuld Neighborhood House. Please call 973-215-6000.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

GREENBROOK—Blood drive sponsored by the Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the Red Cross and New Jersey Blood Services at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home. Call 908-756-6414.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a workshop on Compulsive Gambling, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-253-9810.

Young patients get FunStations



JERSEY CITY—Children in the pediatric unit of Jersey City Medical Center are enjoying a fun and stimulating environment even while they are hospitalized, thanks to The Starlight Foundation. The Starlight Foundation which grants the wishes of sick children, recently donated six wall-mounted FunStations, including games and tic-tac-toe, story books, and the Amazon maze. The FunStations are installed at different heights to catch the attention of toddlers, children and big kids too. In the photo, 8-year-old Joshua Flores of Jersey City demonstrates his skill on the Amazon maze, while Michele Hall of Jersey City, the Director of Children's Services for The Starlight Foundation, looks on.

Blacks are having more trouble kicking the habit

CHICAGO—Black people appear to absorb more nicotine per cigarette than smokers of other races, a finding that could explain why they run a higher risk of lung cancer and have more trouble kicking the habit, researchers say.

Why black people seem to get more nicotine from cigarettes isn't clear. Researchers said there is a disagreement over whether it results from biological difference in the way blacks and whites process nicotine, differences in smoking habits between the races, or both. The findings are contained in two studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

One study, led by Ralph S. Caraballo of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measured blood levels of a chemical called cotinine, a by-product of the breakdown of nicotine in the body, in a nationally representative sample of U.S. adult smokers from 1985 to 1991.

Cotinine was measured instead of nicotine because it stays in the body much longer and scientists have developed a highly sensitive test for it. Black smokers had cotinine concentrations substantially higher at all levels of cigarette smoking than white smokers did, the researchers said, after taking into account differences that could skew the results, such as weight, number of other smokers in the room and smoke exposure at work.

Previous research indicates black smokers are more likely to try quitting and have a lower success rate than white smokers. Also, black smokers run a higher risk of developing lung cancer and dying from it. Higher nicotine absorption could help explain the lower quitting rate among blacks, the researchers said.

Also, if black people have higher cotinine levels because they inhale more deeply or smoke stronger cigarettes, they also would take in more cancer-causing substances such as tar. That, in turn, may explain why black smokers get lung cancer at higher rates than white smokers, the researchers said.

In a related study, a separate team of researchers compared rates of metabolism—the body's process of breaking down food to make energy—and nicotine intake among 40 black and 39 white smokers. Cotinine blood levels per cigarette smoke were significantly higher in black smokers than in white smokers, said the researchers.

Participants needed for local 'hot flash' study

NEW YORK—Women in the New York area who suffer from frequent hot flashes are being sought to participate in a nationwide study of an investigational treatment for this common symptom of menopause. Women may be eligible to participate in the study if they experience multiple daily hot flashes, are between the ages of 45 and 65, have not had a menstrual period in six months, and have not had a hysterectomy.

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the New York University School of Medicine are two of 36 sites across the U.S. participating in a study to assess the effectiveness and safety of a hormone replacement skin patch to treat hot flashes associated with menopause.

The study will involve 400 subjects nationwide, and test the effectiveness of the patch on the frequency and severity of hot flashes. The patch is a type of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) that

releases a combination of estrogen and progesterone, a synthetic version of progesterone.

"The best treatment for hot flashes is estrogen, but many people have concerns about risks associated with this hormone," said Wafar Ullah, M.D., Ph.D., lead investigator and director, department of obstetrics and gynecology, University Macdonald Women's Hospital, Case Western Reserve University. "This study looks at the benefits of combining estrogen with synthetic progesterone to alleviate hot flashes and reduce the risks that may come with using estrogen alone."

The average age of menopause for U.S. women is 51; in the U.S. and Canada, approximately 4,000 women reach menopause every day.

The hot flash is the most common symptom of menopause and perimenopause, the three years before menopause. A hot flash is a sudden feeling of heat that spreads over the

body, resulting from a change in the body's circulation caused by increased blood flow, a rise in temperature and an accelerated heart rate—all precipitated by falling estrogen. Hot flashes may be triggered by a hot environment, spicy or hot foods, hot drinks, alcohol, caffeine or stress. They can last from 30 seconds to several minutes and can occur any time, day or night.

Other menopause-related changes might include irregular menstrual patterns, fatigue, mood swings, vaginal dryness, fluctuations in sexual desire or response, forgetfulness and difficulty sleeping.

Participants in the study will receive free investigational medication, study-related medical treatment and financial compensation. Half of the participants will receive placebo (no active medication) patches.

For additional information on the study, call 718-405-8119 or 212 265-8595.

ECC nursing students get top honors



Saiyal Hanson at left, and Toya Redd, at right, both 1998 graduates of Essex County College and Newark residents, pose with ECC Nursing Department Chairwoman Marlene Day. Hanson and Redd both earned Associate in Applied Science degrees in Nursing and were the co-recipients of the Nursing Department Faculty Scholarship. Redd, who graduated with honors, was named the Nursing Department valedictorian and Hanson was the department salutatorian.

Help Is Available

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—Patt Nevar
Director, Community Health Improvement
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July 1998

22

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. CVS Pharmacy

27

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. CVS Pharmacy

28

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center

28

5 - 8 p.m. Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield. Outpatient Registration area, Main Lobby.

28

5 - 8 p.m. CVS Pharmacy

26

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Hadley Center, South Plainfield.

26

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center

26

5 - 8 p.m. Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield. Outpatient Registration area, Main Lobby.

26

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. CVS Pharmacy

26

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 696 Oak Tree Road, South Plainfield.

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Religion Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

PLAINFIELD—The House of Prayer of God in Christ invites you to attend a "Summer Revival" with Evangelist Darrell Williams at 7:30 p.m. This will continue through July 24th. 908-981-8666.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

NEWARK—The NJ Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America presents its 19th State Convention and the 25th at First Zion Hill Baptist Church, 201-434-8203 or 875-023-8052.

SARVILLE—An International Pastors and Ministers conference will be held at First Fellowship Ministries World Outreach Center, 722-727-9500, end 1402.

MONDAY, JULY 27

PLAINFIELD—The Christian Fellowship Gospel Church will host a "Tent Service" through July 31st. Services start promptly at 7 p.m. 908-970-6585.

Mercy Health Plan pledges support of the African-American Faith Based Initiative

EAST BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey African American religious community witnessed a historical gathering of over 150 religious leaders. The occasion was the Faith Based Economic Development Conference - the event was described by Rev. Reginald D. Jackson, executive director of the Black Minister's Council of NJ, as an opportunity to bring together the Black churches of New Jersey to promote partnership for economic development among houses of worship and existing not for profit organizations. "In our churches, we have some of the strongest economic resources."

Mercy Health Plan of NJ on behalf of HMO Blue, the largest Medicaid Program in New Jersey, was one of the primary corporate sponsors of the event. Mercy is especially interested in supporting the concept of economic development after the conference. Leonard Johnson, Director of Marketing for Mercy, stated, "This conference relates very well with our company's mission. Mercy has a commitment to bettering the communities we serve, in all ways." Mr. Johnson went on to say, "We felt that it was a must for us to commit to help in sponsoring the event. We especially wanted to provide the funding for critical elements of the conference like the Prayer Room and the Corporate Luncheon featuring Bishop Donald L. Hilliard, Jr. of Cathedral Second Baptist Church as the keynote speaker."

The President & CEO of Mercy, Berram Scott, took this opportunity to meet with the ministers and discuss Mercy's potential role in support of community economic development. Mr. Scott believes that only a healthy community can be a prosperous community. "But in order to do so community health must be targeted as a high priority and Mercy is committed to that task now. Our focus is on the community's family and children. We believe that in working with ministers like Rev. DeForest B. Sauter, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, who understands how to successfully

implement economic development projects, we can help to insure long term success."

Stephen Jones, Executive Director of Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministries and Conference Coordinator believes that there can only be a win-win relationship with Mercy's commitment to the Conference's goal (to provide Houses of Worship and other faith based organizations with the knowledge to successfully organize and operate economic development programs and businesses).

Mr. Jones went on to say, "There must be healthy families in order for children to apply themselves in school and be prepared for success and we believe the first line of defense starts with the simple process of health screening. We are planning a breakfast meeting, sponsored by Mercy to explore how to apply our collective resources in an effort to enhance wellness in the communities we both cover, beginning with activities such as health screening and health education."

'Never-say-no' card wins big for Revelation

MEMPHIS - Since December, when Revelation Corporation launched its "Never-Say-No" major-label credit card, the corporation-owned and operated by five major African-American church denominations and headquartered in this Mid-American city had already issued some 200,000 new cards, making economic history.

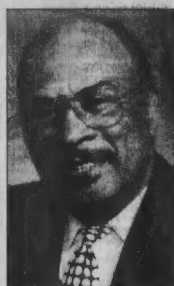
More history was made by the fact that \$100 million in accounts receivable accrued to the corporation essentially an economic cooperative that allocates part of its proceeds to the participating churches and to their home communities.

Most of the new MasterCard cards - with credit limits ranging from \$350 to \$5,000 - required no paperwork and were sent out to people who called Revelation's toll-free number, 1-800-893-5555. Most of the new cards, too, went to people who had been outside the credit mainstream. Now they're inside - with a chance to participate fully in the American dream, explained C.M.E. Bishop William H. Graves of Memphis, Revelation's chairman.

And instead of asking cardholders to "secure" their new cards with a deposit of money on the front end (a common practice in the industry), Revelation merely added any start-up fees that applied to the cardholder's first billing. All new cardholders - even those on the lower end of the scale - began with a favorable credit line.

"We knew the population we were dealing with - hardworking people who didn't have a fair chance at mainstream. Now they're inside - with a card Bishop Graves, who pointed out that those few applicants who were excluded from the credit card program were generally either under in jail, or undergoing a bankruptcy."

Added Dr. Bennett W. Smith, Sr., of Buffalo, president of both the Progressive National Baptist Convention and of Revelation: "When we say, 'Never say no,' that's what we try to make it mean: 'Never.'"



Dr. B.W. Smith Sr., President of the Progressive Nat'l Baptist Convention and of Revelation

Both leaders attributed much of the success of the credit card program to the ease of access provided by Revelation's 1-800-893-5555 number. Callers have also recently learned about a new church property and casualty insurance sponsored by Revelation and The Sedgwick Group and about the corporation's partnership with Norwest Mortgage, Inc. - one which hopes to achieve the same increase in first-time homeownership as the "Never-Say-No" program has with credit cards.

The founding Revelation churches are the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention of America, and AME Zion. A portion of the proceeds from the sale and purchase of goods and services offered by Revelation could also be made available to churches and institutions designated by new individual members.

'Jesus Lives' through song and faith



James Hall & Worship and Praise

NEW YORK—Like a painter with a vast array of colors on his canvas, James Hall has spent his years learning to paint with soul-deep music and vivid imagery. From the classical training he received in his youth, to the Gospel, jazz, pop and r&b that are all different shades and hues on his musical palette, James Hall and his 40-voice choir, "Worship & Praise," have created something all their own. And on their fourth and latest release, Live from New York, the picture is more diverse, colorful and inspiring than ever.

"We've always done exactly what our name says," James explains. "People know when they come to a Worship & Praise concert, or buy one of our albums, that worship and praise is just what they're going to get. Lots of great music, something for everyone...and some church along with it. Our music comes from lots of different places, but our message is always the same."

Touched by both traditional Gospel, and James' background in classical music, shine on a slow and soulful rendition of the classic hymn "Hold To God's Unchanging Word." The results with our company's diverse amalgam of styles—traditional and contemporary—what that indeed only be accurately dubbed "The James Hall Sound."

"The words to that hymn have always really hit me in the heart," says James. "Life is full of confusion and burdens and trial, and friends who forsake you. So the answer is simply to build our lives on things eternal. It's an incredibly encouraging song. He will never change. His hands will always be there to hold you. And I know, in my own life, just how true that really is."

James formed the first incarnation of Worship and Praise in 1987, when he was still in high school. The group remained intact after graduation as their popularity grew. Their career exploded in 1993, when "God is in Control," the title song from their debut album, swept the charts. More than just a hit, the song had a strong hand in ushering in a new era of contemporary urban Gospel. Today, the number remains as popular as ever, and has become James Hall's signature.

"My wife was spinning for a short while after 'God is in Control,' but I got with it pretty quick," James recalls. "Whatever doors God opens for me, I've learned to be ready to walk through them."

James had shown tremendous, natural talent on the piano as a small boy. His parents, recognizing his

son's prodigious gifts, started him in formal, classical piano training at the tender age of five. James avidly pursued his study of classical piano under the strong, nurturing hand of his mother, herself a talented pianist and music lover, until she passed away when he was 12.

"You'll find that classical pieces and phrasing in some of my music, but what I really got from those years goes much deeper than that," James says.

"There's a purity and a beauty to classical music that really got into my spirit, and moved me, and still does to this day. It also taught me technique and gave me a formal knowledge of music that, coupled with the natural ear I think God gave me, has allowed me to do things and go places musically that never would have occurred otherwise."

Most of the time when we speak we do so with some degree of feeling. Speaking is a way of conveying what we think and feel. Quite often we speak when we are upset and our emotions are carried over in our words. These feelings come from us, they originate in us and are carried away from us in the vibrations that emanate from our vocal cords. This is why we must be mindful of our thoughts as well as our words, because thoughts precede what we say. Energy flows through everything we say or do, as well as our physiological responses flow from our thoughts. Therefore it is important that we deliberate and weigh our words before we speak.

Don't let your words enslave you, put you in an embarrassing or compromising position or provide ammunition against yourself. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Phrase your words in a way that will not demean or belittle anyone.

Recently I reacted inappropriately to a situation in the workplace by shooting the messenger, figuratively that is. We were informed about a new procedure and I responded angrily towards the person relaying the policy directive. I found out later that she was hurt by my remarks. Looking back on the situation, what I said was ill-advised because she was just doing her job. Being overly critical of others and being mindful of what I say and the tone in which I say it is something I must be cognizant of. Remember people evaluate and respond to what you say as well as how you say it.

People will either be indifferent to what you say, or they will either like or dislike what you say and the way you say it.

Breaking the silence on sexuality and relationships

WASHINGTON—The National Black Religious Summit on Sexuality: Breaking the Silence, sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice will bring together ministers, faith, health professional, and teens to discuss sexuality in the Church. Reverend Carlton Veazey, president of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice describes the Summit as a conference where participants will be introduced to stimulating discussions which will foster useful and open dialogue about sex, HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy prevention, abuse in families, and homosexuality in our homes, community and yes in our church.

Reverend said, "At the conference we hope to break silence around these issues. The information shared by the ministers and other participants will lay the foundation for counseling and teaching congregations about interpersonal relationships and the consequences of their sexual habits." The Reverend adds, "The emphasis will be placed on teaching our supporting individuals in the community and in the church. This includes the ministers who counsel each and every day."

Leslie Watson, Director of the Multicultural Program for the Coalition of Reproductive Choice said, "The Summit is an educational adventure in worship, song, workshops and pleasantries. It is an opportunity for prayerful consideration of difficult topics such as the impact of domestic violence, substance abuse and sexual ethics in pastoral and interpersonal relationships on our faith and religious life."



Reverend Carlton Veazey



Leslie Watson

Watch what you say!

By Junious Stanton

"No fish ever got caught with his mouth open."

There is power in speech. Words can empower and enoble or they can discourage and demean. Just by opening our mouths we can directly or indirectly affect our environment. All the great wisdom teachings admonish us to guard against offensive speech. Not only can our words injure others, they can harm ourselves. Our words have a way of boomeranging on us, whether they are positive or negative.

The ideal situation is that, every time we open our mouths we say something uplifting, intelligent, supportive, constructive and genuine. However, too often when we open our mouths, we create unpleasant situations for ourselves or others. When we examine our lives, we can all find times when we've caused injury with our mouths; said something unkind, untrue or unflattering about ourselves or someone else.

That is why it is vitally important that we think before we speak. We should consider the consequences of our words. We ought to think about the effect and impact of what we say will have on the situation, other people or ourselves.

There are times when it is wiser to remain silent, listen or just not say anything at all. Keeping our mouths shut will not cause us to end up in the frying pan of life. Lies, gossip, slander, ill-timed or ill-intended verbiage usually come back to haunt us one way or another. Our words are like ripples in a pond. They have far reaching impact. Just as our thoughts have potency, so do our words. They contain meaning and emotion that have a power of their own. Not only do the words we utter impact

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New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Youth and Family Services

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

HOBOKEN — The film "The Full Monty" is presented at the Erie Lackawanna Plaza in front of the Hoboken train station. The free showing begins at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 201-420-2207.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

NEW YORK — The Dellonics will perform a free outdoor lunch-time concert in downtown Brooklyn at the MetroTech Commons at MetroTech Center from noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 718-857-2021.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Performances of the Gospel musical-drama "Another Chance" will be held at Crossroads Theatre through August 2. For more information, call 732-247-2981.

NEWARK — Broad National Bank sponsors Big band vocal artist Marlene VerPlanck in a performance at the Newark Museum's "Jazz in Bloom" concert series. Performance time is 12:15-1:15 p.m. For more information, call 973-596-6550.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

NEWARK — Ms. Carrie Jackson & Her Jazzin' All Stars will perform at the Theatre Square Grill in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 973-642-1226.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

HOBOKEN — The film "Psycho" is presented at the Erie Lackawanna Plaza in front of the Hoboken train station. The free film starts at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 201-420-2207.

NEWARK — The Jazz Institute of New Jersey Youth Ensemble will perform at the Newark Museum's "Jazz in Bloom" garden jazz concert series. Showtime is 12:15 p.m. For more information, call 973-596-6555.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

SPRINGFIELD — The past paintings of Cheryl McLeod are on display at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library through September 10. An evening with the artist will be held August 20 from 7-9:30 p.m. For more information, call 973-376-4930.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

NEW YORK — "Jazz on the Plaza" presents Claude "Fiddler" Williams: A life in Jazz — Celebrating 90 years at 8:30 p.m. at the North Plaza of Lincoln Center. For more information, call 212-875-5000.

A Sisterfriends' tribute to Doctor Betty Shabazz

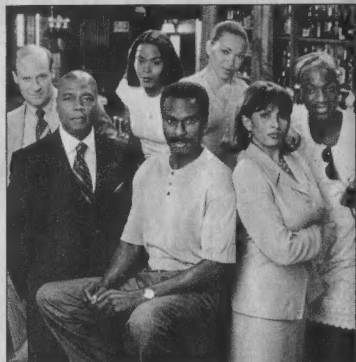
When Betty Shabazz passed away, a nation lost one of the most inspirational and influential figures of the 20th century. Dr. Shabazz, who was just 40 years old when she was assassinated, carried on the work of her husband, Malcolm X, as she achieved a following of her own and earned the world's admiration for her hard work in the fight for civil rights and educational reform. But despite her stature and fame, Shabazz maintained countless friendships through her warm heart, kindness, and guidance.

In Betty Shabazz: A Sisterfriends' Tribute in Words and Pictures (Simon & Schuster), four prominent African women commemorate the life and achievements of one of the most revered women in the African-American community has ever known. Edited by Jamie Foster Brown, Betty Shabazz features poignant and personal tributes from such figures as Maya Angelou, Gloria Naylor, Iyanla Vanzant, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and Dionne Warwick.

The essays that Brown collected illustrate the broad spectrum of lives that Shabazz touched, from political leaders to today's young rap artists. Through their anecdotes, and in their own words, they provide an illuminating glimpse into the life of a woman whose generosity and humor meant as much to them as did her civil rights desire for racial equality and equal opportunities for millions around the world.

A civil rights leader, political activist and distinguished scholar, Shabazz overcame poverty, racism, and the tragedy of her husband's assassination to raise her six children on her own. In these tough years following the assassination, Shabazz earned her doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts and became a college administrator and teacher.

New Showtime series 'Linc's' is vehicle for Pam Grier and cast



Pam Grier, second from right, is a key player in the cast of the Showtime series "Linc's." The show also features Joe Inco, Georg Sanford Brown, Golden Brooks, Steven Williams, Tisha Campbell and Adele Akinnuyoye-Agaba.

Photo by Jim Bridges

By Bob Thomas
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While TV networks in the United States bemoan the record low ratings of a dreary summer season of reruns, at least one cable channel is offering something new. Showtime is giving its viewers 13 episodes of each of two summer sitcoms, "Rude Awakening" and "Linc's." Both premiere Saturday, Aug. 1.

"Linc's" is the name of a Washington, D.C., tavern. Pam Grier appears as a children's rights advocate with a failing marriage. Others in the cast include Georg Stanford Brown, Tisha Campbell, Steven Williams and Adele Akinnuyoye-Agaba.

The ultra-talented Debbie Allen directed the first episode. The show is filmed at Tim Reid's New Millennium studios in Petersburg, Virginia. Reid, of the acclaimed series "Frank's Place," created "Linc's" and is its executive producer.

"The show is going to say, very well that I lose sleep because I'm so excited," Grier says. "The writing, the acting of an incredible ensemble of people who are hysterical, Lord have mercy!"

"It's about real issues. It's about what people don't say and wish they

could. Some people might think it's too much. But that's how real people think. 'Oh, I just don't want anyone to hear my innermost secrets.' We pull them out on the carpet. No one holds back."

Set in a popular Washington, D.C. watering hole that attracts everyone from politicians to insiders to cab drivers, "Linc's" offers a diverse cross-section of African-American lifestyles and opinions.

Along with Gloria Stuart, Burt Reynolds and Robert Forster, Pam Grier had one of the more heartwarming comebacks of 1997. She first achieved notoriety as the athletic star of 1970s blaxploitation films with such titles as "Foxy Brown," "Sheba Baby" and "Scream Blacula Scream."

She continued working during the 1980s and '90s, mostly in low-budget movies, theater and television. Then a longtime fan, Quentin Tarantino, cast her in "Jackie Brown" a flight attendant caught in an underworld plot. Critics rediscovered her as a dramatic actress.

Grier likes her career to a strong tree: "It's going to buckle the sidewalk, it's going to reach over the river, it's going to reach for the sky, drop its leaves when fall comes and bloom again in the spring."

New music from Luther

LOS ANGELES — With a brand new upcoming album and a new record label home, Luther Vandross is poised to make 1998 a memorable year for his millions of fans. The Grammy-winning artist released his debut album "I Know" on August 11, ushering in a fresh creative phase in his acclaimed career.

Through 12 songs, the upcoming collection shows Vandross effortlessly bridging the realms of pop, soul, R&B, and jazz-inflected funk. As an added attraction, the album features guest performances by Stevie Wonder, Cassandra Wilson, and Bob James. Virgin Records is initially issuing the single "I Know" to target the Adult Contemporary format, while "Nights In Harlem" is aimed at urban radio outlets.

His 20-year career testifies to Vandross' talents as a singer, songwriter, producer, arranger, and concert performer. With five Grammy Awards (along with numerous nominations) and cumulative U.S. album sales in excess of 20 million units, Vandross has accomplished an all-around rare feat: achieving artistic excellence while simultaneously earning enormous commercial success.

Luther Vandross

Scoop Du Jour

By Asandra Hunter

"Master P is gonna make history, because he's talented and he wants to make a name for himself in this business," initiated a glibulous Treva Saunders, the independent publicist representing the owner and star of No Limit Records back in 1994. Since then, Master P, born Percy Miller in New Orleans' near-inhabitable 5th Ward projects, has added the title of screenplay writer and film director to his list of talents. A slick entrepreneur, the former street hustler was a genius even before No Limit and Priority Records signed the distribution deal that would give plays have a real reason to hate this fly, flashy nite. The world just didn't know it yet.

The extent of his marketing and distribution acumen with regards to adult-related theme music sales and profits from his first feature film, *I Got The Hook Up*, has yet to be monetarily measured, but the figures are far greater than the impact of his own on-mic efforts.

With the release of Master P's latest installment of his personal diary set to music, *Da Last Don*, Master P let listeners know why he is a genius. *City News*: In a nutshell, how would you describe your most recent album, *Da Last Don*?

Master P: It features Mia X's song. Her album will be coming out late this summer, so I want to keep her coming out with music and I just thought the song would work. It's getting major airplay in some markets. There's so many positive singles on my album. I don't even know what will be next.

CN: It seems as if there's a lot of reality fused into the movies you've been directing lately and I don't know



Master P is making a name for himself in the recording and film industries.

if it's your reality, but it sure seems as if you're pulling from personal experiences.

Master P: I am a product of my environment. I've either been in a situation where I'm trying to get out of it at all costs or someone's to get me. Either way, it's a hustle involved. And I was a hustler. I admit that. Now, I just turned my hustlin' skills into what's called real records.

CN: Tell me a little bit about your next film.

Master P: "Foolish Ways" is about these guys growing up in the hood. They end up getting caught up in a situation that seems to be hard to get out of.

CN: Do you feel completely comfortable behind the camera now?

Master P: I can't ask for anything else but maybe to grow as an individual and as far as directing, I know everything about the camera now and I'm writing more. I can be on a plane writing or in the studio writing. It's all about being organized. And I'm not really gonna worry about being organized, because God's with me and he's giving me these skills. The Lord blesses certain people with talents and they got to go with it.

CN: Speaking of religion, do you find yourself to be religious?

Master P: Some people may not initially be able to see that I'm a believer in God and that I thank him for everything. You can't judge a book by its cover though, because I'm very religious. Everybody must have some source of religion to keep going on.

CN: Does the "Foolish Ways" script remind you of things you used to do?

Master P: In some ways, the movie has some funny parts to it, but it's based on my life and my friend's lives and a lot of that stuff we went through as kids in the ghetto wasn't funny.

CN: Like what for example?

Master P: It was a hard life. No easy livin' there — just death and poverty. I've changed since when I was living in the ghetto and I've learned a lot since I started my business. Now I'm a person who plans and thinks a lot about how I'm gonna keep getting paid. See, I can still relate to the ghetto, but I have to separate myself from the ghetto, because I'm also a businessman.

Exhibit showcases artwork of seniors



ELIZABETH — Freeholder Chester Holmes, right, congratulates Lorenzo Lynch and Agatha Jacobs on their contributions to the Union County Senior Citizen Art Contest and Exhibit held at Schering-Plough in Kenilworth recently. The contest, sponsored by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Division on Aging, has been in existence for 15 years.

"The County Freeholders join in praising all the artists who participated in this year's contest and exhibit. We are always pleasantly surprised by the diversity of artwork and the talent displayed by the senior citizens in Union County," Union County Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan said. The artwork is by professional and non-professional artists who are senior citizens from all over the county.

Louis Armstrong Foundation funds \$1 million program for jazz students

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center recently announced a \$1 million dollar gift from The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation to support an ambitious, new national initiative designed to introduce jazz to students. The curriculum will be appropriate for use in grades four through eight. Named "The Louis Armstrong Jazz Curriculum Project," this interactive, multi-media jazz curriculum will feature a series of teacher/parent guides, student workbooks, compact discs, and other educational materials. The project will draw from Jazz at Lincoln Center's popular Jazz for Young People concerts, which are hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center's Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis.

The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation's leadership in making a national jazz studies curriculum possible is truly an historic and monumental development in the history of American music education," Marsalis said. "Over the

past dozen years, I've visited hundreds of schools around the country and have seen how little accurate and informed material about jazz is available to teachers. The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation has been supporting Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz for Young People series since its inception, and the decision to work with us on this groundbreaking national program further illustrates their deep commitment to music education."

The program will be developed and implemented from 1998 to 2000. The first year will be spent systematically researching and planning the program's components, and in the second year, the curriculum will be tested in five cities selected as pilot sites and workshops will be held to teach instructors how to use the materials. In the third year, after incorporating changes made during the pilot phase, the curriculum will be published and made available to schools and the general public.



Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis is the Artistic Director of Lincoln Center's "Jazz for Young People" concerts which will benefit from the donation.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ROUTE 21 TSM

Notice is hereby given that the New Jersey Department of Transportation will conduct a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed Rte. 21, northward and intersection improvement project from Glen Street to Passaic Street including the replacement of N.J. Transit railroad bridge #7-56, at within the City of Newark, Essex County. The public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 30, 1998 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Offices (NJTPA), One Newark Center, 17th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

The purpose of the public hearing is to ensure that the public has the opportunity to hear their comments, suggestions, and any objections to the project entered into the hearing record. Additionally, the hearing will present the results of cultural resources studies conducted by the Department for this project. Cultural resources studies have identified several historic, architectural and archaeological sites in the proposed Route 21 project area that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Highway Administration and the N.J. Historic Preservation Office both concur that some of the identified cultural resources will be adversely affected by the proposed project. Efforts have been, and will continue to be, made to find prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid or mitigate the adverse affects.

Representatives will make a presentation of the project details and take public comments for the record. Written statements may be given instead of oral testimony. All such statements must be submitted to the Department of Transportation, Office of Community Relations, Box 600, Trenton, N.J. 08625 by Monday, August 31, 1998, the closing date of the hearing record.

Concurrently with the public hearing, in an adjacent area to the hearing room, an informal information center will be held at which displays and information will be provided. Department representatives will be available at this informal meeting to receive comments and answer questions.

The Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation has been printed and distributed for public review at the following locations:

The Offices of the Essex County Executive Director-Hall of Records

City of Newark Department of Engineering

City of Newark Public Library Main Branch and the following Branches: Branch Book, North End, Roselleville and Van Buren

Copies of the environmental document are also available at:

New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Environmental Services

1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 600 Trenton, N.J. 08625

Federal Highway Administration

840 East Tower Road, Suite 310 Trenton, N.J. 08625

Copies will also be available for review at the public hearing.

For further information or if you are physically challenged and require assistance in participating in either the public hearing or the informal information center, please contact: Don Balawie, NJDOT, Office of Community Relations, at (609) 530-2110.

(r21-5)

\$165.10

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, New Jersey for Comprehensive Great Program N338-P363-72197 at: The Elms, 777 Elm Street, Ironbridge, Trenton, NJ 08611, County Avenue and Knoll Heights, 700 County Avenue.

Bids for the above will be received by the Housing Authority in its office located at 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07098 at 4:00 PM on 07/28/98 and will immediately be opened and read aloud thereafter. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on 7/27/98.

The Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Division 1, Drawings, Specifications, and other Contract Documents will be on file during the business day, at the Housing Authority Offices located at Knoll Heights, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey 07098. Plans may be obtained upon paying a non-refundable advance deposit of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per set of plans. Original checks shall be made payable to the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus.

All required bids, certifications and other forms required to be submitted by bidders are to be prepared

on the proposal forms found in the bid form and the bid bond must be 10% of the total bid amount.

All bonds used to satisfy the bid surety requirement must be issued by surety firms licensed to issue such bonds in the State of New Jersey and be listed in the US Treasury Circular No. 570. Bids will be received regardless of the method the bidder proposes to meet the bid surety requirement. It must also produce with the bid a Consent of Surety written by a Titled surety. Registry in the US Treasury Circular No. 570 as a re-insurance company does not satisfy the foregoing requirements that the surety company be listed as approved as surety.

The successful bidder will also be required to produce 100% payment and performance bond written by a Titled surety, prior to the Authorities issuance of a notice to proceed.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the bids received and to accept any bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority. The Authority may also award one or more contracts to one or more bidders.

Bids will remain in force for a period of any (60) days after the date of the opening thereof.

By Order of
William F. Snyder - Executive Director

\$118.30

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK NOTICE FOR CONSULTANTS

The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park is inviting applications from firms interested in performing professional consulting services as a Comprehensive Great Program Administration/Moderation Coordinator. This is one position and the scope of services includes:

Comprehensive Great Program Administrator

1. Directs preparation of Comprehensive Great Program application.

2. Administers all phases of Comprehensive Great Program budgetary prepares necessary budget reviews.

3. Prepares all reports and the correspondence relating to the Comprehensive Great Program for the contract officer.

4. Will be responsible for administering and preparing Public Housing Management Assessment Program (PHMAP).

Will also administer existing Moderation projects.

1. Administers all phases of the existing CIAP budgetary prepares necessary budget reviews.

2. Lead in the selection of professional A & E firms and make recommendations to the Contract Officer/Executive Director.

3. Monitors budgetary and time constraints involved in the implementation of major maintenance programs.

4. Coordinates with the maintenance supervisory staff.

5. Supervises Clerk of the Works (the Consultant will serve directly under the supervision of the Contract Officer and/or Executive Director).

6. Liaison with HUD, residents, and government agencies for modernization projects.

Interested firms should phone the Executive Director's Office at (732) 774-2800 extension 913 to request a bid packet and respond to the RFP by noon on August 5, 1998, to: Claude A. Sweeney, Executive Director, Asbury Park Housing Authority, 1000 12th Street, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712.

\$102.70

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK 71 NELSON STREET, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08901 (732) 745-5147 FAX (732) 214-8805

Request For Proposals (RFP) General Legal Services

Bid Number: NBHA(P5)-2

The New Brunswick Housing and Urban Development Authority requests proposals from Attorney-at-Law, license to practice in the State of New Jersey, for the provision of general legal services in all legal matters which may arise in connection with the business and management of all Authority programs, to be performed over a term period of one (1) year services to be performed that be in accordance with the scope of services, and terms and conditions regarding same, set forth in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's guide form contract entitled, "AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT LEGAL SERVICES." A copy of which (and a PROPOSAL PACKAGE)

Education

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Director of Government Services is seeking an individual to plan and administer continuing education programs for state and local government personnel.

Requires a BA in Education, or a related field, or the equivalent, and one year of experience providing educational or technical assistance, preferably to state and local governments. Also requires a working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet software and the use of a personal car for traveling to training sites throughout the state. A Master's degree related to government administration or adult education, and basic knowledge of New Jersey, such as its government, geography or transportation systems are desired.

We offer a starting salary of \$33,482 and a comprehensive benefits package. Please send resume, indicating position #017, to: Division of Personnel Services, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 66 Bayard Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854-0810. Rutgers is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment opportunities are available to all. To learn more about Rutgers University and employment opportunities, visit our website at: http://dps.rutgers.edu.

RUTGERS

may be obtained by contacting (or leaving a request to) John A. Cherba, Chief of Staff, New Brunswick Housing Authority, 71 Nelson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-5147 - fax (732) 214-8805.

Proposals must be submitted to: Mr. Kevin Quince - Executive Director, New Brunswick Housing Authority, 71 Nelson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, no later than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 1998.

\$72.80

LEGAL NOTICE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

The Morristown Housing Authority is seeking an experienced Fax Accountant firm for its federally funded HUD programs.

White House (670 units) Annual Operating Budget \$2.3 million

Section 8 Rental Assistance Program: 151 certificate, 25 voucher

Comprehensive Great Program: \$650,000

Family Investment Center Great Program: \$250,000

Plans submit written proposals, including a lump sum fee, based on a twelve (12) month contract period, commencing 11/1/98, indicating specialized experience, qualifications, and capacity to accomplish assignments to: David Gardner, Morristown Housing Authority, 31 Early St., Morristown, NJ 07960, no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 1.

\$52.00

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK ADDENDUM #1

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR
FAX MACHINES & LASER PRINTER SUPPLIES

RFA #8-913432

Notice of the following Addendum of the original bid package for this bid is hereby given to all interested firms for the above invitation for bids:

1. Xerox 4320 Toner Cartridge #113R00002 or Equivalent Brand has been added as a first line item for Fax Machines & Laser Printer Supplies bid invitation.

2. The bid opening date has been extended to Wednesday, July 29, 1998 at 10:00 am.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK

ZINNENFORD SMITH
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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HOUSING MANAGER

The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey has an immediate opening to its facility in Plainfield, NJ. Founded in 1907, UMH-NJ is a non-profit organization committed to providing quality & caring services in a Christian environment. About 1,000 senior men & women receive Residential, Assisted Living & Nursing Care in our facilities.

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Please send resume & salary requirements to: Luella A. DeLoe, Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 0667, Neptune, NJ 07754-0667.

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CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT MANAGER

Join New Jersey Performing Arts Center's management team. PM responsible for monitoring installations and their compliance with aesthetic intent, liaison with consultants, strategic measures and assist in establishing project programs, schedules and budgets; maintain meeting and project records and files. PM must possess experience in architecture or construction management. Familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel & AutoCAD. Send resume to: Human Resources, NJPAC, One Center St., Newark, NJ 07102.

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Education

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Director of Government Services is seeking an individual to plan and administer continuing education programs for state and local government personnel.

Requires a BA in Education, or a related field, or the equivalent, and one year of experience providing educational or technical assistance, preferably to state and local governments. Also requires a working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet software and the use of a personal car for traveling to training sites throughout the state. A Master's degree related to government administration or adult education, and basic knowledge of New Jersey, such as its government, geography or transportation systems are desired.

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Lawmakers propose bill tough on narcotics

By S Mitra Kalita
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—Two New Jersey lawmakers want more than \$2.5 billion over five years to fund more after-school programs, federal drug courts and 20,000 more police officers on city streets.

Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., and Rep. Bob Menendez, D-Union City, said Tuesday they plan to introduce a bill in Congress that gets tough on narcotics crime.

Their four-pronged plan calls for \$1 billion to fuel after school programs to serve as safe havens and avert juvenile crime. The proposal says \$15 million will be needed to establish federal drug courts in 10 cities. For \$1.5 billion, 20,000 police officers would be added to cities, with half of those officers doubling as school safety officers. The fourth part of the plan would mandate that criminals who deal drugs near a school receive one to three years in prison for the first offense, and three to five years for the second offense.

"The United States is not winning the fight against narcotics abuse," Torricelli said at a news conference here. Both Torricelli and Menendez decried a Republican Congress for not seriously addressing a growing drug problem.

"The sense of Congress is that the battle is all right. We're here to tell you it's not," said Torricelli.

Yet the bill—named the Drug Elimination and Justice Act—stands little chance of getting through Congress without Republican support. Acknowledging that, Menendez assured, "We will see momentum on this."

Torricelli, too, was cautious and said neither he nor Menendez claims to lead a bipartisan effort on the crime bill. "We've proposed about 10 grants," said Torricelli. "If we could just get one or two of those grants..."

Jersey City schools make great progress

By Thomas Martello
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—State Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz recently said the state could relinquish its decade long control of the Jersey City School district—perhaps as soon as next year.

"I'd love to think next year we could recommend Jersey City (to a return to local control)," Klagholz said after announcing a new round of test scores for the three districts the state took over because they consistently failed.

"Jersey City is very close," Klagholz said. "It wouldn't have been taken over in its present state."

The education commissioner said the Paterson school district could be a few years away from regaining local control, but the Newark district is

"many years" away.

The scores for the 8th grade early writing tests and the 11th grade high school prof-

iciency tests show improvement in most categories for Paterson and Jersey City.

Newark scores, however, were mixed. The education commissioner conceded the scores remain too low in all the districts.

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"None is where it needs to be in terms of student performance, and that's not a surprise," Klagholz said. "The problems of these urban districts are very complicated and it's a major challenge."

Of the three districts, the passing rates are highest in Jersey City. The eighth grade writing passing rates improved in reading (82.1 percent passed) and mathematics (75.2 percent), and went down in writing (68.7 percent). On the 11th grade test, improvements were posted in reading (74.9 percent) and writing (78.5 percent), but the math passing rate (69.8 percent) was lower.

Paterson passing rates improved in all areas but the 11th grade math test, and several scores were significantly higher than last year. On the eighth grade test, 65.7 percent passed reading, 69.3 percent passed writing and 61.9

percent passed math. On the 11th grade test, 64.5 percent passed reading, 66.4 percent passed writing, and 38.6 percent passed math.

In Newark, the passing rate improved in eighth grade reading (65.4 percent), eighth grade math (56.3 percent) and 11th grade reading (63.3 percent). The passing rates were lower in eighth grade writing (64.3 percent), 11th grade writing (61.1 percent) and 11th grade math (50 percent).

The 11th grade math passing rates were lower for all three school districts, and significantly lower in Paterson and Jersey City. Klagholz said he wasn't sure why the rates dropped on this test.

The commissioner said he expects urban test results will improve once the state adopts a "whole school reform" approach accepted by the state Supreme Court.

Teens find help close to home

TRENTON—Starting next month, existing residential treatment agencies in the southern part of the state can begin admitting teens to long-term treatment lasting three or four months. The new publicly funded treatment services will be available to teens clinically assessed to need this type of care, and will be paid for with \$450,000 in federal funds earmarked for preventive health care services. The money will pay for an additional 30 teens to receive treatment and follow-up care.

In addition, Commissioner Friseman said the state will work with community groups to find, by next year, a suitable site and continuing funding for 75-bed treatment center in southern New Jersey just for teens. It will be devoted solely to long-term residential treatment that can last up to a year or more.

"When teens are in trouble with drugs and alcohol, we need to get them into care quickly," Governor Christie Whitman said. "We owe it to their families not to make a difficult situation even worse by making them travel long distances in the northern part of the state."

"It's not just a matter of convenience to have your child at a treatment center closer to home. It can make all the difference in the teen's recovery if families participate regularly in the treatment process," added Commissioner Friseman. Publicly funded residential treatment centers in South Jersey currently offer mostly short-term treatment, which lasts about a month. Teens needing publicly funded, long-term residential care have had to travel to one of six other programs, with a total of 236 beds, in central or northern New Jersey.

Both short-term and long-term treatment can be used for teens with a variety of drug and alcohol problems. However, the lengthier treatment is generally reserved for those who have used substances for a longer time, use multiple drugs or who use drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Charity care pilot program now law

TRENTON—Legislation sponsored by Assembly Democratic Leader Joseph V. Doria Jr. that will authorize the creation of regional, two-year managed care demonstration projects for the state's hospital charity-care system was signed into law on June 30.

The new law (A-1690) will eliminate a provision of a 1996 law that required New Jersey to establish a permanent, statewide managed charity care program. Doria's law calls for pilot projects instead.

Doria (D-Hudson) said a system of regional demonstration projects will stand a better chance of winning federal approval and would enable the state to experiment in creating a model managed charity care system for the entire state.

As the bill moved through the Legislature this spring, Governor Whitman conditionally vetoed Doria's bill. She recommended additional language to create a Managed Care Task Force that will study the demonstration projects and the feasibility of using technological health care advances—such as electronic patient identification.

"These changes will produce tangible, positive results," said Doria. "A task force will speed up the process while providing us with valua-

able, well-researched recommendations. We want to ensure that people still will receive the quality health care services that they deserve and they have come to rely upon."

"The whole concept of a managed charity care system is untested, so it makes sense to experiment with as many different service delivery methods as possible. With all this pilot-project experimentation, we will be able to develop an innovative and effective managed care model for the state's hospital charity care system."

Doria said the state's charity care system would likely encounter disruptions and chaos if it were to institute network-wide managed care services.

"This is the most prudent course to take given the fact nobody knows how such a managed care program will work or whether it will save the state money in the long run," said Doria. "There needs to be some pilot programs, some real-life testing, whether or not to proceed and a task force to make recommendations whether or not to proceed."

"This law will provide us with limited real-life experience with this managed care concept before we extend it to all the hospitals that rely on charity-care funding."

Families dig deeper to pay for college

By S Mitra Kalita
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—Year-to-year tuition increases at New Jersey public colleges usually mean a few hundred more dollars out of students' or parents' pockets—generally not enough to force a student to drop out.

What is alarming, though, say college officials, is how deep those pockets will need to be if tuitions keep increasing at the current rate.

Tuition increases this year at New Jersey's public four-year colleges once again will far exceed the rate of inflation. State colleges have been announcing increases in the range of 7 to 10 percent for the 1998-99 school year. Inflation for the first five months of the year was running at 1.5 percent. For 1997-98, tuition increases at the state colleges averaged 9.6 percent.

William Paterson University in Wayne and Ramapo College in Mahwah last week became the latest state schools to announce tuition increases. William Paterson will increase tuition and fees for full-time undergraduates by 9.5 percent in the fall, to about \$4,150 a year, school officials said. Ramapo said it will boost tuition and fees by 8.8 percent, to \$4,446 a year.

Rutgers University, the state's largest public institution, is scheduled to approve tuition rates for the 1998-99 school year at July 10 board meeting.

"If you average tuition at about \$4,000, a \$400 increase shouldn't frighten you away from college. We have to concern ourselves, though, with the long-term policy," said Paul Shelley, spokesman for the New Jersey State College Governing Board.

The long-term problem is rooted in a history of state funding that has barely kept up with inflation and a perception among Whitman administration policymakers that colleges have not been as diligent as they need to be about holding down expenses. Meanwhile, tuition costs have risen quickly and steadily.

Last week, the governor signed an \$18.1 billion budget that increased state aid to 12 four-year institutions by 2.5 percent. Whitman cut \$6.5 million from the budget that had been earmarked for the state schools' capital repair needs.

The state's two-year county colleges, meanwhile, received a 14 percent boost in aid and agreed to freeze tuition. The deal is part of a four-year pledge to increase the state's share of the county colleges' costs to one-third.



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